USAREUR clears up confusion over flu vaccine policy change Page 3

# STARS STRIPES.

Franz of 'NYPD Blue' ready to turn in badge



McNabb grabs playoff spotlight; Brady shuns it



Prince Harry apologizes for Nazi costume

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Page 21

Volume 63, No. 270

Dennis Franz

SS 2005 G FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 2005

Baseball announces tougher steroid policy

Pact includes more frequent testing, penalty for first-time offenders



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Strip

Quest for the best

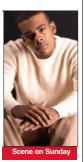
Tester Staff Sgt. Chris Allen, left, watches Spc. Tim Harris, Company C, 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, maneuver through the "move under direct fire" task at the 1st Armored Division's Soldier of the Quarter competition. This time round, troops faced a new, tougher competition, which prepares them for real-world warfare.

#### STARS STRIPES. COMING SOON



Scene on Sunday

#### Fashion can prove to be dangerous



R&B crooner Mario turns 18

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# ws Tracker ... What's new with old news

#### States

Yates decision: False testimony from the state's expert witness in a former nurse's capital murder trial was a basis by one juror for convicting the woman of drowning her children in the family bathtub.

Juror Ron Jones wrote the judge in Andrea Yates' case that he had decided she was insane, but changed his mind based on testimony by psychiatrist Park Dietz about an episode of the television show "Law & Order" where a woman was found innocent by reason of insanity for drowning her children

No such episode existed.

Earlier this month, a Texas appeals court threw out Vates' convictions in three of her five children's drownings because testimony from Dietz was false and the trial judge had denied a request by defense attorneys to declare a mistrial after it was learned that Dietz's testimony was false.

Train gas leak: A week after chlorine gas leaked from a train wreck and killed nine people in Columbia, S.C., officials will let about half the 5,400 residents displaced by the accident return home Thursday morning

Air quality tests show chlorine has returned to normal levels on the edges of the evacuation area which extended a mile from the crash site, according to the Aiken County Sheriff's Office.

Conditions remain too dangerous to allow people back into homes and businesses closer to the crash site, near the Georgia line and about 60 miles southwest of Columbia.

#### World

Nazi victims' accounts: Records of more than 3,000 World War II-era Swiss bank accounts were published on the Internet Thursday as part of an effort to return hundreds of millions of dollars to Nazi victims



Garage shooting: David Lynn Jordan, center, is escorted by Jackson Police Officer Tommy McLean, left, and Lt. Chip Holland of the Madison County Sheriff's Department, in Jackson City Court on Wednesday in Jackson, Tenn. Judge Blake Anderson ordered Jordan, the suspect in a shooting rampage at a state maintenance garage, jailed without bond on three counts of first-degree murder and two charges of attempted first-degree murder. No plea was entered pending appointment of a defense attorney.

or their descendants.

The publication was the result of a settlement reached in June between the banks and Nazi victims. The banks' refusal to release the records

had angered Holocaust survivors and infuriated a federal judge overseeing the case. "It marks a last chance to repay what is

owed, a last chance to repay a debt that goes back over half a century," said Gideon Tay-lor, executive vice president of the court-ap-

pointed tribunal that oversees disbursement of the funds

The list of names was posted to the Web site of the tribunal overseeing the distribution of the funds - www.crt-ii.org.

Transplant baby: A 1-year-old girl who underwent an eight-organ transplant in Miami last year has died in a hospital in northern Italy, officials said Thursday.

Alessia Di Matteo died Wednesday at the Istituto Giannina Gaslini hosnital in her hometown of Genoa. Officials there said the cause of death was not immediately clear. Di Matteo's condition was already extremely serious when she was transferred to the ospital from the United States last month.

Di Matteo was born with congenital smooth muscle disorder, which prevented normal function of her stomach, intestines and kidneys. The condition is fatal if left un-Pinochet bail: A Chile appeals court on

Wednesday approved freedom on bail for former dictator Gen. Augusto Pinochet, who has been under house arrest pending trial for nine kidnappings and one homicide during his long regime.
The Santiago Court of Appeals' ruling con-

firmed a lower court judgment for bail earlier this week

Pinochet's chief defense lawyer, Pablo Ro-driguez, asked the court to lower the \$3,500 amount, court refused. Pinochet has been under house arrest for one week.

Rabin's assassin: The assassin of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will be punished for having physical contact in his cell with the woman he says he has married, a prison

spokeswoman said Thursday.

The woman, Larisa Trimbobler, kissed Yigal Amir on the cheek during a visit

Thursday, Prison Service spokeswoman Orit Stelser said. Amir returned the kiss and the two started hugging and fondling each other before a

prison warden intervened, Stelser said. Stories and photo From The Associated Press

#### SANTA MARIA, Calif. - The judge in the Michael **Corrections**

Judge: Jackson hearing will be open Jackson child-molestation case has ruled that a hearing about allegations of past sexual misconduct by the singer will not be held behind closed doors.

The ruling Wednesday by Superior Court Judge Rodney Melville was a victory for the news media and the prosecution. The judge said he will schedule the arguments after the jury is selected. Jackson's lawyers had contended that holding an open hearing on the alleged prior offenses would influence prospective jurors.

Pretrial hearings have been set for Jan. 21 and Jan. 27 to consider issues including whether a child-abuse expert can testify, the questionnaire to be given to jurors and other motions on admission of evidence.

From The Associated Press

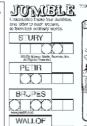
#### Clarification

A message written by U.S. Army Europe commander Gen. B.B. Bell that was inserted in some editions of Wednesday's paper was clarifying an article titled "Drug-related deaths require renewed attention on prevention," which appeared in the Jan. 11th edition of the Stuttgart Citizen. The Stuttgart Citizen is a command-sponsored publication that has no connection to Stars and Stripes, an editorially independent newspaper.

The Jumble puzzle in Wednesday's edition contained multiple errors because of a production error. The corrected version appears at right. The number of squares did not match the number of letters for clues three four. Each of those clues should have six ares. The answer is WREST STOP

A story in Wednesday's edition about an airman who was court-martialed for drug use contained ininformation. correct Senior Airman Justin Marshbank's case was handled in a general court-martial

APPLY TODAYI



HAT SCHAMBLED WORD GASE



form the surprice arrays, as suggested by the above excher 9000

Viseterday's Jumbles: LSDLE MONEY MORNIC Fard to mise after spring planting -HIS BODS



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# Flu vaccine eligibility opens but not mandatory

#### U.S. Army Europe's medical command tries to clear up misunderstanding of policy change

BY SANDRA JONTZ Stars and Stripes

Some U.S. military commanders in Europe misunderstood a recent policy change for the flu vaccine and thought the change, which extends doses to active-duty forces meant the vaccine was mandatory for all in uniform, a military medical official said.

The misinterpretation could lead to a further shortage in supply, said Phillip Tegtmeier, spokesman for the U.S. Army Europe's Regional Medical Command.

Last fall, the U.S. government restricted who could receive the vaccine after a key supplier shut down operations because of a contaminated batch. The United States received 61 million doses, shy of the expected 100 million, according to the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The shortage affected the military's supply of vaccine, and the Pentagon pared down distribution

This month, the Pentagon loosened the restriction and made it available to all ac-

"The program is voluntary, and those who want the vaccine should come in right Tegtmeier awav." said. "[But] our facilities don't have enough to make it mandatory for all soldiers. We're exhausting existing supplies."

Military officials will not say how many doses of the vaccine are available troops, citing force protection and securi-

ty concerns. Civilians and family members in high-risk categories set by the CDC will

continue to receive the vaccine Officials have accounted for a forecasted number of deploying forces and have

tive-duty forces, but did not order troops to get the vaccine.

doses reserved for them, Tegtmeier said. "Sufficient quantities are being set aside"

14 The program is voluntary....Our facilities don't have enough to make it mandatory for all soldiers. 77

Phillip Tegtmeier Spokesman, U.S. Army Europe's Regional Medical Command to cover the requireents of fulfilling our obligations to administer the vaccine to deployed and deploying soldiers. Those were set aside within the clinics, and clinic commanders know commanders they are to be held for deploying soldiers," Tegtmeier said.

'We re-examined those supplies and have already made necessary shifts from one clinic to another to ensure those doses are in the deploying

soldier's clinic. Whatever supplies are left in the clinics will now be given on a voluntary basis to active-duty personnel as well as any high-risk beneficiaries who come in." he said.

Those considered high-risk include children 6 to 23 months and adults 50 years and older; those ages 2 through 49 with chronic medical conditions such as pulmonary and cardiovascular illnesses, sickle cell anemia, or immunosuppression diseases such as HIV; pregnant women; and children 6 months to 18 years on chronic aspirin therapy.

Also included are health-care workers and those who have contact with children younger than 6 months of age.

Doses remaining after deploying troops are vaccinated will be given out on a first-come basis, with priority to ac-tive-duty military personnel, Tegtmeier

January and February historically are the peak flu season months. "If there are any qualified beneficiaries

out there in high-risk categories who would like to receive the vaccine, they should do so soon before the supply is ex hausted by the active-duty personnel who

come in voluntarily," Tegtmeier said. E-mail Sandra Jontz at: jontzs@mail.estripes.osd.mil.

### Airmen deploying to Mideast appreciate AEF rotation system

BY RON JENSEN Stars and Stripes

RAF MILDENHALL, England - Staff Sgt. Stephon Gaines of the 48th Services Squadron at RAF Lakenheath is becoming an old hand at deploying to the Mid-

He departed Wednesday afternoon for his third visit to the region, along with about 200 of his comrades from the 48th Fighter

"When they tell you, 'We are going to leave,' I know everything

Even better, he said, the deployment came as no surprise, thanks to an Air Force concept called Air and Space Expeditionary Force, which is designed to put some predictability in an airman's life.

"When you get back, you know you have 15 months to prepare yourself to deploy again," he said.

The AEF concept has been around for about a decade, and it has proved its worth in recent years as the operations tempo has increased, say people who have scheduled their lives around it.

The idea of prepackaged, tailored air forces suffered a few bumps when the global war on terrorism began in 2001, jumbling the schedule and requiring some adjustments.

But it now has smoothed out into a program that gives Air Force members the luxury of planning their lives beyond next month, not worrying about a surprise deployment, airmen are happy to admit. Most airmen defor four months at a time, then have 15 months until the next deployment.

"You can go to school and stuff," said Gaines, a 10-year Air Force veteran

"It does add, for the majority of our people, some stability," said Brig. Gen. Mark T. Matthews, the commander of the 48th Fighter Wing, which is the lead wing for next deployment cycle, AEF 4.

More than 1,000 members of the 48th Fighter Wing are in the process of deploying to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility this month. The 494th Fighter Squadron

has already flown several of its F-15E Strike Eagles to the region. Other groups of airmen will be deploying in the next week or two, but the group that was lounging around the passenger termi-nal Wednesday at RAF Milden-

hall was the largest single group The Air Force would not release specific destinations for security reasons

Dr. (Lt. Col.) Joseph Anderson, a flight surgeon with the 48th Aerospace Medical Squadron, will be chief of aerospace medicine where he is going

He's known about this deployment since arriving in England in the middle of 2003.

(The AEF) does lend predictability, absolutely," he said.

The early heads-up provided him time to do the training needed for his specific job, he said. Plus, it also gave him time to savor the opportunity to pay back the Air Force for the training it has given him.

"I'm actually very excited," he said. "The investment they've made in me is just tremendous." Senior Master Sgt. Antonio Johnson of the 48th Munitions



Senior Airman Gabriel Saunders of the 48th Civil Engineer Squadron at RAF Lakenheath, England, catches some shut-eye Wednesday before deploying with a couple hundred other 48th Fighter Wing members to the

Squadron at RAF Lakenheath is making his second trip to the area. He says the AEF concept is a blessing

"I'm living proof," he said. Once he returned from the area

in late 2003, he knew he could relax for all of 2004 before joining another AEF rotation.

"If anybody in the Air Force has complaints," he said, "(they should) talk to our Army brothers and sisters '

Soldiers not only serve longer deployments downrange than Air Force members — 12 months compared to four or six - they often receive shorter notice of the deployments.

As he waited for a signal to board the contracted aircraft waiting outside in the cold English sunshine, Johnson gazed around the terminal at airmen who were sleeping, talking, reading or just

"I recognize some of the faces that were down there with me last time," he said.

That's a comfort, too, he said, because the experienced airmen will benefit those who have not been to the area

"It makes them feel at ease when they're down there with someone who's been down there before," he said.

One person on his first deployment is Senior Airman Paul Cepparo of the 48th Civil Engineer Squadron.

"Looking forward to it," said the 22-year old native of Long Island, N.Y. "I signed up to do my job, serve my country and be the best civil engineer I can be.

Cepparo signed up for the Air Force shortly before the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks that prompted the ongoing global war on terror He and his family lost friends among the firefighters who died that day at the World Trade Center.

So did his wife's family. 'It was a hard moment for all of us," he said. "That's why we have

to (deploy) — to make sure it doesn't happen again."

E-mail Ron Jensen at: jensenr@mail.estripes.osd.mil

KRISTEN CHANDLED TOTAL Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Army to get money for college. He hoped to run his own video

production company someday.

his father told the Post-Intelli-

Wooten trained as a tanker at

Fort Knox, Ky., and joined the 1-77 Armor on Jan. 7, 2003. Thirteen months later, the unit de-

ployed to Iraq as an infantry bat-

talion, leaving most of its ar-

His unit had joined in Opera-

tion Baton Rouge, the liberation of Samarra in late September, and he had just returned to Iraq

after spending two weeks at home

In eulogies read at Wednes-

day's service, members of his unit

remembered Wooten as a man

laugh, no matter how bad the mis-

sion," said Capt. Eric Gagnon, his

was the guy that always took the

new guy in and made him feel a

Lt. Col. David Hubner, the bat-

talion commander, praised Wooten as a brave soldier who

loved his family - and haunted the dance clubs of Schweinfurt

"He was quite possibly the best dancer in town," Hubner said.

"His friends marveled at his abili-

ty to watch a music video, break

down the dance steps and learn

Besides his parents. Wooten is

survived by one brother, one sister, one half-brother and one

the newest moves effortlessly.'

when the unit was in Germany.

"Wooten always made me

mored vehicles in Germany.

with his family at Christmas

who was quick with a quin.

company commander.

part of the team.

Pvt. Thanh Tran serves as an honor guard while soldiers line up to salute their fallen comrade, Spc. Curtis L. Wooten, during a memorial service Wednesday at Ledward chapel in Schweinfurt, Germany. Wooten died when a roadside bomb exploded Jan. 4 near the armored Humvee in which he was riding as the gunner in Irao.

# Eulogies praise GI from Army family

BY STEVE LIEWER

Spc. Curtis L. Wooten lived the Army life, from his birth to soldier parents at Fort Riley, Kan., in 1984, to his own enlistment during the war on terrorism 18 years later.

He died a soldier, too, when a roadside bomb exploded Jan. 4 in Iraq near the armored Humvee in

which he was riding as

the gunner.

"I feel
pride in his
service because he followed what I
did," his father, Curtis
Wooten Sr., a
Persian Gulf
War veteran
from Junc-



tion City, Kan., told the Seattle Post-Intelligencer newspaper last weekend. "But it sucks that it ends this way."

Dozens of friends gathered Wednesday at the Ledward Barracks chapel in Schweinfurt, Germany, to remember Wooten, 20, of the 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment, four days after his buddies paid tribute to him in a service at a base near Balad, Iraq.

Wooten followed his parents to Army bases around the world until he was 10. Then they divorced and he went to live with his mother, Dairyene, in Spanaway, Wash.

After graduating from high school in 2002, he joined the

# Search for 1st AD's best NCO, soldier of

#### NCO, soldier of quarter face new, tougher contest

By JESSICA INIGO Stars and Strings

FRIEDBERG, Germany — A couple of high-speed 1st Armored Division soldiers took the honors Thursday in the division's new, tougher competition to select its too troops.

Sgt Jessy Carr, with Battery C, 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery, and Pfc. Aaron Jewell, of the 69th Chemical Company, beat out four other division troops to be named the first NCO and soldier of the quarter.

The three noncommissioned officers and three soldiers tested their Army knowledge, as well as their physical prowess, during the three-day event ending Thursday with an award ceremony and dinner at Ray Barracks.

The division's 1st Brigade hosted the competition, hoping to catch any snags and iron them out for future division competitions

"We're still in the learning stages and are watching how the soldiers react to the course and how we can improve on it," said Sgt. Maj. Allen Ashton, the operations sergeant major for the 2nd Battalion. 37th Armored Regiment.

The soldier-of-the-quarter competition usually is performed indoors in front of a panel of senior leaders. Troops dress in their Class A uniform and perform small marching movements as part of the test. They also answer

questions about the military.
The new competition, for which troops must first compete at local boards to qualify, requires soldiers to get decked out in battle dress uniforms, react to live fire in open, muddy fields, give first aid on mock war injuries, and alert comrades to fake roadside bombs.

Command Sgt. Maj. Russell W. Sadler, 4th Brigade's top enlisted soldier, said the so-called Iron Warrior training is meant to prepare troops for real-world war-

It is "designed to ensure that every soldier deploys to combat trained in the basic skills necessary to survive on the modern batlefield by instilling the warrior ethos," Sadler said in an e-mail released by the 1st AD public affairs office.

He said having a segment of hands-on skills shows that soldiers know what they're learning and could perform those skills in strenging environments.

Soldier pleads guilty to robbing bank on Coleman Barracks



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Str

Sgt. Lessy Carr of Battery C, 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery Regiment navigates through the brush during the "move under direct fire" task, while competing for the 1st Armored Division's NCO of the Quarter competition. For the task, the competitor must try to evade fire from a sniper and a machine gun nest.

The three-day test began with 10 troops out of the division, but four were disqualified for failing the Army Physical Fitness Test requirements, Ashton said.

The rest went on to brave the German cold and rainy weather and test their minds and bodies in day and night land navigation; test their soldiering skills in a field environment; go on a four-mile march with a 15-pound rucksack; and go through an

M-16 rifle qualification range.
"It was exhausting." Carr said
during a telephone interview
after being named the winner.
The grueling mind-and-body competition took its toll on him, Carr
said, but he said he loved the opportunity to be one of the first
leaders to go through the course
and be named the NCO of the
ounter.

"The event went outstanding by 1st Brigade and the entire Iron Soldier crew," Carr said. "Nothing went wrong, unless there was a way for them to make it stop

mail Jessica Inigo at:



Pfc. Aaron Jewell, of the 69th Chemical Company, dons his nuclear, biological and chemical protection gear, while competing at the 1st Armored Division's Soldier of the Quarter competition at the Friedberg training area on Wednesday.

#### or in 2002, no joined the newers@mail.estripes.osu

BY RUSS RIZZO Stars and Stripes

MANNHEIM, Germany — A Mannheim-based soldier accused of robbing a bank on Coleman Barracks with a plastic gun pleaded guilty at a court-martial this week to robbery and communicating a hreat, Army officials said.

Spc. Daniel A. Sampe, a helicopter mechanic with the 2nd Battalion, 502nd Aviation Regiment, was sentenced Monday to 48 months of confinement, reduced in rank to E-1, ordered to forfeit all pay and given a bad-conduct discharge.

Sampe, 21, robbed the local Community

Bank of more than \$50,000 in U.S. and European currency shortly after it opened Sept. 29, said Master Sgt. Derrick Crawford, a spokesman for the 21st Theater Support Command.

Sampe used a plastic imitation handgun in the robbery and put the stolen money in a military-issued, wet-weather bag, Crawford said. He wore an Army physical training suit and a ski mask during the robbery, Crawford said.

Investigators probably did not have a hard time nabbing Sampe. He was stationed at Coleman Barracks, home to about 2,000 people, according to base officials.

mail Russ Rizzo at: zzor@mail.estripes.osd.mil

# Air Force losing top leaders, official says

BY ROBERT BURNS The Associated Press

WASHINGTON Force's top weapons-buying offi-cial said Wednesday his service is suffering from a leadership vacuum, and he predicted a further exodus of senior officials in the fallout from a feud with Congress over a proposed plane leasing deal with Boeing Co.

Marvin Sambur, the assistant secretary of the Air Force for acquisition, told a group of reporters that the Air Force is feeling the effects of low morale as a re-

#### Senior officials leaving in fallout over Boeing deal

sult of the conflict, which centers on claims that senior Air Force officials pushed for a sweetheart deal for Boeing.

"There's a vacuum in several positions with three-star generals, two-star generals - nobody's

getting confirmed," Sambur said. In October, Air Force Gen, Gregory Martin withdrew his nomination to be the next commander of U.S. Pacific Command after he came under fire for the Boeing deal during a confirmation hear-

Air Force Secretary James Roche is stepping down next week with no replacement vet nominated. Peter Teets, the Air Force undersecretary and director of the National Reconnais-

sance Office, will take over as the senior Air Force civilian until a new secretary is confirmed. Sambur also is quitting

"There are many people who are lining up to leave," Sambur said, adding that some of the Air

Force's most important organizations, including Air Combat Command, are being affected

Lt. Gen. Ronald E. Keys has been nominated to take command of Air Combat Command, but the Senate has not yet confirmed him. Keys would replace Lt. Gen. Bruce A. Wright, who has been nominated but not yet confirmed by the Senate to take command of U.S. Forces Japan and Pacific Air

The Air Force official who nego-

tiated the original aerial tanker leasing deal with Boeing, Darleen Druyun, pleaded guilty in federal court last year to conspiracy. She began serving a nine-month prison sentence in Florida this month.

Druvun admitted that she began job talks with Boeing while she was overseeing negotiations on the tanker deal

The \$23 billion tanker contract has since been nullified, and the Pentagon has asked Congress to investigate a wide range of contracts in which Druvun was in-

# Darmstadt ceremony recalls Martin Luther King's vision

BY JESSICA INIGO Stars and Stripes

DARMSTADT, Germany - In his mind's eye, the scene in front of the Escape club outside the gates of Cambrai-Fritsch Casern on Wednesday evening has played out before.

A little black boy was standing

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lenses

delivered

worldwide

in front of a group of children of different races, leading them in a speech. Then a little white girl took over, laughing and bumping into the young Hispanic girl next to her The children were comfortable together, acting almost like brothers and sisters.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. dreamed of this scene, and mili-

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Holland

Ttaly

tary communities throughout Europe are helping

to

play it out. Each year, Americans remember King's legacv of tolerance, peace and equality on the third January.

Monday of Many installations, like the one in Darmstadt, are celebrating early to remind peonle that though it is a

holiday, it is "A day on, not a day off," as the theme says

To honor Darmstadt community members who have exemplified King's vision throughout the "Salute to Greatness" awards and trophies were given out at the club.

Some people were recognized for volunteer work, others for being leaders, and still others for making America's future bright-

Staff Sgt. Lavert Mitchell Jr., of

bury Chapel, a multicultural Christian church in Frankfurt. led a gospel choir and then spoke of King's push for community ser-

Company C, 127th Field Artillery

out of Rabenhausen said his lead-

ership award was the most mean-

ingful honor he had ever re-

"This has given me the motiva-

Dorothy Wilson, pastor of Atter-

tion to go out and do bigger and better things," he said.

Master Sgt. Shanna L. Travis, the community Equal Opportuni-

Associated Press Writer Matthew Daly contributed to this story.

MICHAEL ARRAMS/Stars and St

From left, Markees Weathersby, Eugene Ward and Dwayne Toney, all members of the Darmstadt Middle School's multicultural club. talk about Martin Luther King Jr. during the Darmstadt/Babenhausen, Germany, military community's celebration at the Escape Club in Darmstadt on Wednesday night.

ty adviser, said she hoped to highlight new aspects of King with his

"The Drum Major Instinct' speech. King gave the speech Feb. 9, 1968, at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta.

"People get caught up in the 'I Have a Dream' speech, but Dr. King was so much more than a civil rights leader. He has often been called one of America's great freedom fighters. He wanted equality for everyone," she said

E-mail Jessica Inigo at: inigoi@mail.estripes.osd.mil

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#### myPay available for NAF civilians

Civilian federal employees whose salaries are paid through Non-Appropriated Fund accounts can access their 2004 W-2 earning statements electronically through the myPay system.

In order to access earning statements and information, users must have a valid personal identification number, or PIN. PINs can be obtained by logging onto the Internet at https://myPay.dfas.mil or www.dfas.mil/mypay. Select "New PIN" under the "Need a new PIN" option on the myPay home page. The process will issue a random, temporary PIN.

W-2 hard copies will be mailed to each employee before Jan. 31, but subsequent copies can only be obtained electronically.

Additional information is available from Cheryl Crews at DSN 312-829-2147 or commercial (903)

#### Memorial for Rota Seabee

NAVAL STATION ROTA, Spain - A memorial service for a 23-year-old Seabee who died of a brain aneurysm last week will be held at 8 a.m. Saturday at the Rota chapel.

On Jan. 3, Seaman Mario Gaspar, an electrician with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 4, suffered the aneurysm and died three days later after unsuccessful emergency surgery at a hospital in

The construction battalion is home-ported in Port Hueneme, Calif., and Gaspar was on a six-month deployment to Rota.

Gaspar is the fourth person to die in a series of unrelated incidents in the Rota area since Jan. 1. The other deaths included two sailors and the wife of a IIS servicemember stationed at Rota

From staff reports

# Iraqi forces will lead vote security, genral says

BY LEO SHANE III Stars and Strines

WASHINGTON - U.S. forces will play a behind-the-scenes role during the Iraqi elections later this month and Iraqi security forces will be the visible security presence at the polls, according to the U.S. commander of military forces in north central

Army Maj. Gen. John Batiste said Thursday that he has seen great improvement in the Iraqi security forces over the last few months, and believes having them directly monitor voting - instead of U.S. troops

#### Batiste: U.S. to offer support when necessary

will give more legitimacy to the election

"This is an election for Iragis, by Iragis," he said. "It's important this be an Iraqi-run election.

"You'll see Iraqi security forces at polling stations and around polling stations. They know exactly where polling stations are and have developed plans to secure them. We'll operate from a distance and

provide quick support as necessary Batiste praised the Iraqi military and police units as courageous and diverse, saying that Kurds. Shiites and Sunnis are all represented in the forces.

He said threats and direct attacks on the forces have increased dramatically in the last few weeks, which he takes as a sign that the domestic soldiers are becoming more effective and more problematic for

Army officials said since Oct. 1, Iraqi forces have killed about 200 insurgents and captured about 1.400 in operations

with U.S. military personnel and in independent missions

"Leading up to the elections we expect [insurgents] to go after Iraqi security forces when they can find them in small numbers and to continue to attack us from a distance," Batiste said. "But there is no shortage of brave Iragis who want to stand up

Batiste said he expects elections to take place throughout central Iraq, despite comments from interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi earlier this week calling parts of the country too unstable to take part

E-mail Leo Shane at: shanel@stripes.osd.mil

### Gunmen kill aide to pro-election Iraqi cleric

BY SINAN SALAHEDDIN The Associated Press

BAGHDAD - Gunmen killed a representative of Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani. Irag's most senior Shiite Muslim cleric, along with the aide's son and four bodyguards in a town south of Baghdad, an official in the cleric's office said Thursday.

Insurgents trying to derail Iraq's Jan. 30 elections appeared to be sending a message to al-Sistani. who strongly supports the vote.

Insurgents have targeted electoral workers and candidates. Elsewhere, gunmen opened fire

on a minibus picking up a Turkish businessman from the Bakhan Hotel in central Baghdad on Thursday, killing six Iraqis and kidnapping the Turk, who reportedly ran a construction company that worked with U.S.-led occupa-

Sheik Mahmoud Finian, al-Sistani's representative in the town of Salman Pak, 10 miles southeast of Baghdad, was shot dead Wednesday night as he was returning home from a mosque where he performed the evening prayers, the official said on condition of anonymity.

The aide's son and four bodyguards also were killed, the official said at al-Sistani's office in the Shiite holy city of Naiaf.

Shiites make up 60 percent of Iraq's 26 million people and are expected to dominate the 275-member National Assembly in the first free elections held in Iraq since it became independent in 1932

Some Sunnis, who are 20 per-



Iraqis have their morning tea Thursday next to electoral posters featuring the Shiite cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, in Baghdad. The elections planned for Jan. 30 are the first democratic elections in Iraq since the country was formed in 1932. If many Sunnis do boycott the vote, the United Iraqi Alliance

cent of the population, fear a loss of the dominance and privilege they enjoyed for decades. Sunni clerics have called for a boycott.

Al-Sistani has urged Iraqis to vote, calling it a religious duty for every man and woman. The cleric is not running himself but is backing the 228 candidates from the United Iraqi Alliance, a coalition of 16 groups that includes Iraq's largest Shiite political party, the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Irag

concerns about security. lawi told Al-Arabiya television.

postponed despite some groups' "There are calls for postponing for the sake of postponing and I don't think this helps Iraq,"

stands to dominate the assembly, ward with the political process whose main job will be to write a and that Iraqis participate in the political process, including elec-tions," Allawi said. permanent constitution. Interim Prime Minister Avad Allawi on Thursday reiterated that Meanwhile, oil resumed flowthe Jan. 30 elections shouldn't be

ing through a major pipeline linking Kirkuk's oil fields with the northern refinery of Beiji following a three-week stoppage caused by a Dec. 23 sabotage attack, an official with the North Oil Co. said

"One of the ways to end the in-

surgency is to continue going for-

#### U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Wednesday, at least 1,356 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associat-ed Press count. At least 1,068 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said

The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is one higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. Wednesday

The British military has reported 76 deaths; Italy, 19; Po-land, 16; Ukraine, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,218 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 959 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's num-

bers. The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ No deaths reported. The latest identifications re-

ported by the Defense Department

■ No identifications report-

### U.S. concedes Jan. 30 election in Iraq may not run smoothly

WASHINGTON - Administration officials say the Iraqi elections at the end of the month will be less than perfect, but nonetheless will pave the way for a drawdown of U.S. troops.

"The election is not going to be perfect," White House press secretary Scott McClel-lan said Wednesday. "This is the first time Iraqis will be able to freely choose their leaders. It's for a transitional government, and it's one of three elections that will take place over the course of this year.'

Separately, Secretary of State Colin Powell said American troops will begin leaving this year as the Iraqi army, national guard and police force take on a larger security

"But I cannot give you a timeline when they will all be home," Powell said in an in-terview with National Public Radio that was released by the State Department on Wednesday

Powell has said it is imperative for the elections to go forward as planned to give more credence to the concept that insurgents are fighting an Iraqi government rather than an American occupation force.

The U.S. military's ground forces commander in Iraq, Lt. Gen. Thomas Metz, has said that while most of Irag's 18 provinces are secure enough for the elections to proceed, security remains poor in four provinces. Those provinces - Nineveh, Anbar, Salahadin and Baghdad — are home to about 25 percent of Iraq's population.

Thursday

McClellan said coalition forces and the Iraqi government are "working to address those ongoing security challenges

"We want to make sure that there's as broad a participation as possible in those elections," he said. One idea being considered is to let people who are prevented from voting by violence to vote later.

White House officials said that while there has been little preparation for the vote in Anbar province and part of Nin-

eveh province, there remains some hope that ballots can be distributed, voting lists drawn and polling places set up by Jan. 30.

One provision that may help overcome logistical challenges and encourage turnout in troubled provinces is to allow people in those parts of the country to vote anywhere they like, rather than only at a speci-

In Iraq, 14 million of Iraq's 26 million people have so far registered to vote, according to the White House. There are 111 political parties and other entities competing for shares of representation in the member National Assembly. The results of the Jan. 30 election are not to be an-nounced until around Feb. 15.

fied polling place, officials suggested



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Mountain Division, had when it

the current area of operations is

10 times the size, explaining the New York division primarily

stuck to the areas near the air-field. By contrast, the bulk of the

battalion

around five provinces.
"A lot of these villages [in the

new areas] had not been contacted by U.S. forces before," Wil-bourn said. "The outlying areas

In some of these remote places,

Villa said, the children seemed afraid of the GIs.

"The kids," he explained,

'would run into the house" at the

sight of a U.S. patrol rolling

Over time, the kids stopped run-

ning, and the artillery battalion

has settled nicely into its expand-

was in the region. Capt. Nathan Wilbourn figures

are important, too."

through town

artillery

# **Battalion takes on many duties in Afghanistan**

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY Stars and Stripes

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan They have become a rather indispensable lot, the soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment.

Like many Army units these days, this 25th Infantry Division unit has been working somewhat out of its "lane." The howitzers that the unit brought from Hawaii are still in their rightful places, but so much more has been asked of the soldiers who fire the guns or support triggermen.

"We're all over the place," said Maj. David Flynn, the unit com-mander. "It's something definitely different from what I'm used to as an artillery guy."

In the months leading up to its deployment from Schofield Barracks on the island of Oahu, the battalion was gearing up for what it does best, Flynn said, Then, late in the planning stages, the mission expanded to include infantry work and other duties



Maj. David Flynn

"On a daily basis you're asked

to do things that you won't normal-

ly do [in your military occupational specialty]," Sgt. Hamzat Saba said. "You adapt and overcome."

The range of additional duties

runs the gamut, from drug inter-

diction and weapons seizures to

checkpoints and foot patrols.

When the holy month of Ra-

madan ended in November the





Sgt. Frank Villa



unit brought some goats, sheep and rice to some Afghans so they could celebrate the festival of Eid, which breaks the fasting ob-

served during Ramadan. "Normally, food distribution is not our game," Flynn quipped.

The same can't be said for Sgt Frank Villa, a cook assigned to the unit. But since food preparation is contracted out. Villa's culinary skills aren't needed, unless his colleagues desire a tip to spice up their Meals, Ready to Eat.

likely to see Villa toting a gun than a spatula.

In addition to the extra duties, the battalion is patrolling an area that is considerably larger than

These days, a person is more

ed role. "You learn as you go," Villa "These guys," Flynn said, "are

just average Americans out there trying to make things happen.

#### Naples officer receives Bronze Star

NAPLES, Italy - Cmdr. David Sutton, base supply officer at Naval Support Activity, Naples, has received the Bronze Star Medal for service as the chief of Iraq's Baghdad Contracting Office from November 2003 to April

Under Sutton's command in Iraq, the contracting office awarded and administered more than 1,100 contract actions totaling more than \$100 million, according to the

"Cmdr. Sutton excelled under pressure in an already hostile environment." the office said, quoting from the citation that accompanied the medal. "When his office was

struck by a rocket, he immediately took command of the situation, searched the damaged building for casualties and had them escorted to medical care.

The Bronze Star, given for heroic or meritorious chievement or service, was awarded during a ceremony Monday in Naples

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# Defense rests in Graner's Iraqi abuse trial

By T A BADGER The Associated Press

FORT HOOD, Texas - The debly be fense for Spc. Charles Graner Jr. final ness. rested its case Thursday without the accused ringleader of abuses that at the Abu Ghraib prison taking The jury of four Army officers

and six senior enlisted men was to begin deliberating Friday.

Graner's lawyers had indicated



lead lawyer, said the other defense witnesses provided all of the evidence necessary to make the case that military and civilian intelligence agents controlled Abu Ghraib and ordered Graner to soften up detainees for questioning.

"We came in with a checklist of things we wanted to present to the jury." Womack said. "Once we accomplished that, there was no reason to continue

Graner, a 36-year-old reservist from Uniontown, Pa., is the first soldier to be tried on charges arising from the Abu Ghraib scandal. He had appeared glum in recent days, but outside court he said: "I feel fantastic. I'm still smiling.

On Thursday, a former guard at the prison testified that intelligence intelligence officers wanted detainees roughed up there, and that Graner did not take part in a number of the abuses he is accused of committing.

But the defense former Spc. Megan Ambuhl, admitted under cross-examination that she had had a brief sexual relationship with Graner and remains a close friend.

"And you don't want your friend to go to jail?" asked Maj. Michael Holley, the prosecutor.

"No. sir." she answered.

Ambuhl, who made a plea deal with prosecutors regarding her own actions at Abu Ghraib, also said she lied to investigators who sought to search her personal computer for photos and other evidence of abuse

Graner is accused of conspiracy to abuse detainees, assault, dereliction of duty and committing indecent acts, and faces up to 171/2 vears in prison if convicted.

Among other things, Graner is



Megan Ambuhl leaves the judicial complex Thursday after testifying in the court-martial of Army Spc. Charles Graner at Fort Hood,

accused of stacking naked detainees in a human pyramid and later ordering them to masturbate while other soldiers took photo-He also allegedly graphs. punched one man in the head hard enough to knock him out.

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Womack, his

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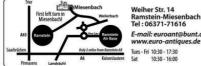
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# Article 32 ends for SEAL accused of abusing Iraqi

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO - Prosecutors said actions by a Navy SEAL lieutenant accused of abusing an Iraqi at Abu Ghraib prison were unacceptable by any standard, while the officer's lawyer said nothing he did warranted a court-martial.

The arguments came as a five-day Article 32 hearing, the equivalent of a civilian grand jury, concluded Wednesday. The Navy's top SEAL, Rear Adm. Joe Maguire, will decide whether the officer should face court-martial He did not say when he would issue his recommendation

Prosecutors said the lieutenant. who was not identified, posed in degrading photos with the handcuffed and hooded prisoner, who died a short time later. The SEAL was accused of assault, maltreatment and conduct unbecoming an officer for his handling of detain-

Defense attorney Matthew Freedus said the government's witnesses contradicted one another and that Navy guidelines about taking pictures of detainees was unclear

In the photos, which were shown in court, the lieutenant flashed a thumbs-up while his men pointed their weapons at a hooded and handcuffed detainee in the back of a Humvee. In another photo, the lieutenant is seen kneeling next to another detainee lying on the ground wearing a pumpkin mask.

case centered on Iraqi Manadel al-Jamadi, a suspect in the bombing of a Red Cross facility.

Al-Jamadi was captured by SEALs during a joint CIA-special operations mission in November 2003. He died a few hours later under CIA interrogation in the shower room at Abu Ghraib pris-

The hearing ended without an answer to the question of what role the CIA played in al-Jamadi's death.

Freedus was prevented from asking a former Army criminal investigator who led an inquiry into the death last year what position the prisoner was in when he died. The Navy officer reviewing the evidence, Lt. Cmdr. William Boland, said the question was "material, but not relevant." He added that he would not recommend any charges related to al-Jamadi's death

The hearing was conducted under special security precautions. A naval security officer monitored the hearing and halted testimony to avoid disclosing clas-sified information. Reporters were cleared from the courtroom numerous times.

Earlier Wednesday, several SEALs called by the defense had high praise for the accused, calling him one of the best junior lieutenants they had seen during their service in the Navy's Sea. Air, Land teams.

#### IN THE WORLD

# **Indonesia: Some aid missions need escorts**

# Government fears rebel attacks on relief efforts; large-scale fumigation planned

BY JIM GOMEZ

The Associated Press

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia — Indonesia on Thursday ordered foreign aid workers in tsunami-devastated Aceh province to have military escorts in areas facing violence by insurgents, even as the vice president welcomed a cease-fire offer by the rebels. The total death toll from the disaster rose to more than 157,000

Relief groups have not reported any security problems in Aceh, where rebels have fought a low-level separatist war against government troops for three decades, and some worried that the new restrictions could harm their reputation for independence.

But Indonesian military spokesman Col. Ahmad Yani Basuki said in a telephone interview that the army considers only the areas around the provincial capital Banda Aceh and the stricken coastal town of Meulaboh safe for foreigners.

"Other areas aside from that are potential trouble spots," he said. Anyone going to the troubled zones must take military escorts. But Basuki warned: "We don't have enough personnel to secure everyone."

Health officials, meanwhile, planned a massive spraying campaign starting Friday in Indonesia's disaster zone to head off the threat of malaria, which one expert said could kill up to 100,000 people in the coming months if authorities don't act quickly to kill mosquitoes.

Indonesia's Social Affairs Ministry raised the country's official death toll from the Dec. 26 disaster to 110,229, an increase of nearly 4,000. Sumatra island's Aceh province was worst hit, with the number of people missing there at more than 12,000, with 703,518 homeless survivors.

Death tolls also went up in India — by 345, to 10,672 — and in Sri Lanka — by six, to 30,899. The overall toll across 11 nations stands at 157,642.

Indonesia's restrictions—which include an order that aid workers declare their travel light its sensitivity over foreign involvement in the humanitarian effort, especially that of troops from the United States, Australia, Singapore and Japan.



Lakshmi, 28, makes an earthen oven Thursday in the ruins of what was her kitchen at Karaikkal Medu village, about 13 miles north of Nagappattinam, in the southern Indian state of Tamii Nadu. Lakshmi's house was destrowed in the Dec. 26 tunami.

The security measures represent an effort to regain control of Aceh and the west coast of Sumatra island. Before the disaster, the military controlled Aceh with a tight grip, and foreign journalists and aid workers were barred. Widespread rights abusees were reported.

Rebel leaders reaffirmed their commitment to a cease-fire they declared hours after the Dec. 26 earthquake that sent killer waves fanning out across the Indian Ocean. Indonesia's vice president wel-

comed the cease-fire offer.

"Indonesia will also make efforts toward it," Jusuf Kalla said at the vice presidential palace.

The U.S. ambassador to Indonesia urged Jakarta and rebels to negotiate peace. "Both sides should get together quickly, negotiate a settlement and get on with rebuilding Aceh," ambassador B. Lynn Pascoe said Thursday. Kalla said Tuesday that Indone-

sia wants the foreign troops to leave the country by late March — sooner if possible. Survivors among the tens of thousands living in refugee camps welcomed the foreign troops, which have been flying helicopter aid missions to otherwise inaccessible areas and running field hospitals.

# Britain's Prince Harry dons swastika at costume party

BY ROBERT BARR The Associated Press

LONDON — Being the son of Princess Diana buys some sympathy, but not enough to get away with wearing a Nazi uniform.

So Prince Harry is learning, to immense royal embarrassment, after his party costume provoked outrage from Jewish groups and politicians.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center urged the wayward 20-year-old to go to Auschwitz to atone; the leader of the opposition Conservative Party demanded a public apology, and another lawmaker wanted Harry barred from the army.

"What Harry did was both stupid and evil," said Lord Janner, a senior figure in Britain's Jewish community. "The time has come for him to make a public apology."

Harry made his first apology Wednesday night, just as The Sun newspaper's first edition was hitting the streets with a big headline — HARRY THE NAZI — and a picture of the young royal wearing a swastika armband.

The picture was snapped by a guest at a fancy-dress birthday party on Saturday, and apparently sold to The Sun. Prince William reportedly was attired as a leopard and lion for the birthday party, which had a "native and colonial" theme.

"It was a poor choice of costume and I apologize," Harry said in a statement issued through the office of his father, Prince Charles.

"I think a lot of people will be disappointed to see that photograph and it will cause a lot of offense," said Michael Howard, leader of Britain's main opposition Conser-

vative Party.

"I think it might be appropriate for him to tell us himself just how contrite he now is," added Howard, who is Jewish.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles expressed outrage.

"We strongly urge Prince Harry to accompany the British delegation on Jan. 27 to the Auschwitz death camp to commemorate 60 years since liberation," said Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean and founder of the center, "There he will see the results of the hated symbol he so foolishly and brazenly chose to wear."

#### Six Afghan soldiers kidnapped, killed

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — Gunmen kidnapped six government soldiers in a former Taliban stronghold in southern Afghanistan and dumped their bullet-ridden bodies in a canal, a local official said Thursday.

The six went missing on Wednesday during a patrol in the Helmand province, 220 miles southwest of the capital, Kabul, said Mohammed Wali, a provincial government spokesman.

A government spokesman blamed Taliban guerrillas for the killings, but provided no evidence to support his assertion.

#### Frankfurt Airport sees record number of fliers

FRANKFURT, Germany — Frankfurt Airport, continental Europe's largest, enjoyed an unprecedented number of fliers in 2004, with a 5.7 percent jump in traffic over 2003, its operator said Thursday.

The airport closed the year with 51.1 million passengers, setting a new annual passenger record, said Fraport AG, its operating company.

Most of the growth was seen in intercontinental flights, particularly connections to North America, the Middle East, and southern

It also achieved double-digit growth in freight tonnage, which was up 13.1 percent over 2003.

From The Associated Press



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#### Abbas open to peace talks

RAMALLAH, West Bank - Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas said Thursday that he is ready to honor the security commitments in an internationally backed peace plan, adding that he hopes to resume peace talks with Israel soon.

Meanwhile, a top Hamas leader held out the possibility of a cease-fire with Israel Sheik Hassan Yousef, the group's top offi-cial in the West Bank, also said Hamas does not seek to eliminate Israel.

Abbas, elected earlier this week, said Thursday he is eager to restart talks on the "road map," a peace plan backed by the United States, European Union, Russia and the United Nations.

#### Iran keeping eye out for spies

TEHRAN, Iran - Iranian officials vowed careful watch for any attempted espionage by international inspectors who were to take environmental samples Thursday at a military complex the United States alleges may be involved in nuclear weapons research

Inspectors from the International Atom-ic Energy Agency, the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency, arrived in Iran on Wednesday for a visit to the huge Parchin military complex just outside the capital Tehran, according to state-run television

Iran has said it will allow U.N. nuclear experts to take environmental samples from landscaped areas outside the military complex's ammunition production workshops but that it won't allow them to inspect military equipment.

#### Senators to meet with NATO

BRUSSELS, Belgium - A delegation of U.S. senators will meet with NATO's governing body Thursday for talks expected to focus on the alliance's missions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The group, led by U.S. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, arrives in Brussels after a trip that has taken in Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Iraq and Sri Lanka. NATO has 100 soldiers in Iraq preparing a training mission for Iraqi officers. That is expected to increase to 300 as the operation gathers

In Afghanistan, NATO has 8,000 peacekeepers in the north and in Kabul.

#### Thatcher admits guilt

CAPE TOWN, South Africa - Sir Mark Thatcher pleaded guilty Thursday to unwit-tingly helping to finance a foiled coup plot in oil-rich Equatorial Guinea, accepting a \$506,000 fine and suspended jail sentence.

The plea deal allows Thatcher, the son of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, to leave South Africa and to re-

join his family in the United States. Mark Thatcher admitted in the Cape High Court that he paid to charter a helicopter, which mercenaries planned to use in their attempted takeover. But he maintains he believed it was to be used for humanitarian purposes, according to his lawyers and a person close to the family.

Only later did he begin to suspect the helicopter would be used for military purposes, according to a statement issued by , a member of his legal team

#### Envoy to talk terror with EU

BRUSSELS. Belgium - Washington will station a top envoy in Brussels on a permanent basis to work with European Union officials in the fight against terrorism, U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said Thursday, signaling a mending of ties after a stretch of trans-Atlantic tensions.

Ridge said a senior U.S. official will be in place at the U.S. mission to the European

Union by April 1.

"The United States shares an important partnership with the European Union," Ridge said during a speech at a European think-tank

Ridge's remarks were seen as part of warming relations ahead of a Feb. 22 visit to EU headquarters by President Bush. From The Associated Pres



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#### IN THE STATES

### Deadly plieups in Michigan, Indiana

BY DAVID EGGERT The Associated Press

ALAIEDON TOWNSHIP, Mich. — At least two people died and 37 others were injured when about 200 vehicles crashed Wednesday in thick fog on a Mich-

igan highway, police said.
One person also was killed in Indiana when at least 20 vehicles piled up amid heavy fog on a high-way east of South Bend. Numer-

ous others were injured. In Michigan, a 14-year-old boy was killed when the sport utility webicle he was riding in and about 10 other vehicles — includ-ing a tractor-trailer — crashed on Interstate 96 outside Lansing. The boy's mother and grandmother were in critical condition, Ingham County Sheriff Gene Wriggelsworth said.

The other fatal crash occurred about 30 minutes later when a man hit a semitrailer from behind, Wriggelsworth said. The victim was not immediately identified

A total of 114 vehicles were involved in pileups in the east-bound lanes, while between 80 and 100 vehicles crashed in the westbound lanes.

At least eighteen people were being treated Wednesday evening at a hospital in Lansing.At least seven injured people were treated at hospitals in the In-

# **Residents survey storm damage**

BY KEN RITTER The Associated Press

OVERTON, Nev. - Unwilling to wait any longer and ignoring warnings that more water might be on the way, residents in the West returned to homes damaged by storm-swollen creeks and riv-

"We've just got a big mess to clean up," said James Watkins, 50, as churning brown water receded around his Overton home.

As residents came, emergency responders began pulling out at dawn Thursday from this small southern Nevada town, replaced by mad crews and health officials looking at the safety of the water supply and sewer systems, and testing roads flooded when water crested Wednesday.

Heaviest flooding was concentrated here, in the area where Nevada, Arizona and Utah meet; 18 homes were destroyed or condemned in St. George, Utah



A man in Santa Clara, Utah, speaks on his cell phone Wednesday at the end of a cul-de-sac, where a house stood until the night before.

North Dakota experienced blizzard or near-blizzard conditions followed by a wind chill advisory for the state, with conditions that could feel as cold as 50 below

Two people were killed and 13 in southern Arkansas' injured Union County late Wednesday or early Thursday by a violent storm ently a tornado.

But the worst losses were at La Conchita in California's Ventura County, where a mudslide Mon-day crushed 15 homes and killed 10 residents

A hillside began eroding away from beneath a private road in the tony Mount Olympus area of the tony Mount Olympus area of the Hollywood Hills, and 13 people were evacuated as five homes were red-tagged as unsafe. Los Angeles Mayor James Hahn said Wednesday the city had sustained damage totaling about \$10 mil-

At least 18 homes have been lost or condemned because record flood waters along the Santa Clara River in Utah. Some 100 families are reportedly dis-

The Muddy River fanned out over ranches and farms, collapsed riverbanks near downtown Over ton and forced an estimated 200 people to flee. Officials warned that flooding remained possible overnight.

#### Time cut for Martha?

NEW YORK - Martha Stewart's legal team is reportedly studying whether a Supreme Court ruling tossing out federal sentencing guidelines could shorten the length of her confinement. The decision will affect people

whose cases are pending, or defendants whose first appeals are not vet completed — like Stewart. The homemaking expert was

sentenced to five months in pris-

on and five months of home con-finement after being convicted of lying about why she unloaded stock before the price plunged.

#### Passport prints urged

WASHINGTON — The United States should put the fingerprints of its citizens on passports to enhance global security, Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said in a recommendation risking a privacy fight at home.

Ridge said Wednesday pass-ports could ideally include biometric finger scans — for all 10 fingers — to help customs officials quickly and accurately iden-tify U.S. travelers. He offered no details on how the plan might deal with privacy concerns or guard against international iden-

#### No-fly list to stand

tity theft

SEATTLE - A federal judge

dismissed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the government's no-fly list of terror suspects barred from boarding air-

U.S. District Judge Thomas S. Zilly threw out the bulk of the case for lack of jurisdiction, saying that most claims brought by the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of people with names identical or similar to those on the list must be taken di-rectly to a federal appeals court. From wire reports

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#### Hacker infiltrates Secret Service computer

WASHINGTON - In the heat of a monthslong hacker investigation into an extraordinary break-in at a leading wireless carrier's network, an Internet informant approached the Secret Service with startling news: The targeted hackers were reading some of the agency's own e-mails and comput-

The trove of illicit government data included a "highly sensitive" internal Secret Service memorandum and part of a mutual assistance legal treaty from Russia, according to court records.

The break-in targeted the network of Bellevue, Wash.-based T-Mobile USA, which has 16.3 million customers nationwide

Nicolas Lee Jacobsen, 21, of Santa Ana, Calif., a computer engineer, has been charged with the T-Mobile break-in in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles. Investigators said they traced the backer's activities to a hotel near Ruffalo, N.V. where Jacobsen was staying.

#### Power restored to remote Alaskan village

ANCHORAGE, Alaska - Electricity was restored to most homes in an Arctic village Wednesday, four days after the community lost power in a fierce blizzard and was thrown

into a deep freeze.

An Alaska Air National Guard helicopter reached Kaktovik on Tuesday, bringing two technicians who were able to restore power to about three-quarters of the village of 300 people more than 200 miles above the Arctic Circle

A blizzard packing near hurricane-force winds knocked out power to the village Sunday and plunged temperatures to 20 degrees below zero.

#### FDA weighs over-the-counter drug request

WASHINGTON — The government is considering whether a drug for a serious chronic condition — high cholesterol - should sit on drugstore shelves alongside medicines for headaches, allergies and athlete's foot.

Supporters say making a low-dose cholesterol medicine available without a doctor's prescription would help get need-ed treatment to millions of Americans who are at risk of

But opponents say selling directly to the consumer allows patients to skip doctor visits, where they might be told to change their diet and exercise - both crucial in the effort to

lower cholesterol. A panel of FDA scientific advisers was considering the request Thursday and Friday. The FDA usually follows the recommendations of its advisers.

# **NASA** comet mission seeks blockbuster of a discovery

By MARCIA DUNN The Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL Fla NASA's Deep Impact spacecraft has begun its one-way trip to a fiery confrontation in space - a journey hopefully worthy of its Hollywood name.

The craft blasted off Wednesday on a six-month mission to smash a hole in a comet and give scientists a glimpse of the frozen primordial ingredients of the solar system.

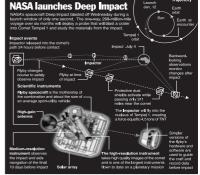
"We are on our way," said Michael A'Hearn of the University of Maryland, the mission's chief scientist. Minutes later, the spacecraft shot out of Earth's orbit and onto its colli-

Scientists are counting on Deep Impact to carve out a crater in Comet Tempel 1 that could almost swallow the Roman Colosseum. It will be humans' first look into the heart of a comet, a celestial snowball still containing the original building blocks of the sun and the planets.

The smashup is set for the Fourth

The flight was barely under way when an overheating problem was detected by the spacecraft itself. Onboard computer software put Deep Impact in a protective "sleep" mode that flight controllers expected to emerge from within 24 hours, via recovery commands.

"We don't see it as a long-term



threat by any means," said project manager Richard Grammier.Deep Impact is carrying the most powerfultelescope ever sent into deep tempted before. space. It will remain with the mother ship when the copper-fortified im-pactor springs free the day before the comet strike, and will observe the event from a safe 300 miles

NASA space telescopes like the Hubble will also watch the collision. Nothing like this has ever been at-

Scientists stress that Deep Impact will barely alter the comet's orbital path around the sun and will not put either the comet or a chunk of it on a collision course with Earth.



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# Bush inauguration a pricey affair

#### President's second swearing-in ceremonies may cost at least \$40M

BY JIM ABRAMS The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - It will take President Bush less than a minute to take the oath of office next Thursday, but before the inaugural events are over some \$40 million may have been spent on parades, parties and pyrotech-And that doesn't include the

costs of the most intense security operation in inaugural history.

The amount spent on this year's festivities will rival the \$40 million raised to celebrate Bush's first inauguration in 2001, and will exceed the \$33 million spent by President Clinton in 1993 when Democrats returned to the White House for the first time in 12 years

While the partying is being paid for privately, there have been some muttering about the scale of the celebrations at a time of war and natural disaster.

"Precedent suggests that inaugural festivities should be muted - if not canceled — in wartime. Anthony Weiner, a Democratic congressman from New York, wrote Bush on Tuesday.

Money for the celebratory activities is being raised by the Presidential Inaugural which as of the end of last week had received \$18 million, much in six-figure donations from wealthy supporters and corporate sponsors.

Among the dozens of donors who've given at least \$250,000 donors are retailer Home Depot, Bank of America Corp., pharmaceutical company Bristol-Myers Souibb and Ford Motor Co.

Kevin Sheridan, a spokesman for the committee, said the fund-raisers were confident they would reach their goals. Sales of inaugural memorabilia, another source of revenue, have been even better than in 2001, he said.

The big donors are rewarded with a variety of inaugural packages, including meetings with political VIPs, tickets to the swearing-in ceremony and parade, and hard-to-get entry into the official inaugural balls and dinners.

The events begin Tuesday with a salute to the troops and a youth concert. On Wednesday there will be a celebration on the Ellipse park, including a fireworks show, and three candlelight dinners.

On Thursday afternoon, after Bush takes the oath of office at the Capitol, some 11,000 people will take part in a parade from the Capitol down Pennsylvania Avenue, to the White House. That night there will be nine official

D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams has estimated it will cost the district \$17.3 million to help pay for security at the first post-Sept. 11 inauguration, which includes 6,000 law officers and 2,500 military personnel to guard the 250,000 people at the swearing-in and the half-million expected to line the parade route.

Williams, in a letter last month to Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge, said he can use \$5.4 million from a fund for special events in the capital, but the other \$11.9 million will have to come from the city's federal homeland security budget.

Inauguration day, with its street closings and heightened security, will also be a holiday for federal workers in the Washington area. That, according to the Office of Personnel Management, costs taxpayers an estimated \$66 million

# STARS STRIPES | LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Anti-hunting logic flawed

Economics, violence of killing an animal, "accidental-shooting injuries," and civilized behavior were the subject of "Hunting is not best approach" (Jan. 7). Unfortunately, the letter writer's philosophy is flawed.

I grew up in the cattle industry of Oklaho ma. Many of my youthful days were spent on the kill floors of a slaughterhouse. My most vivid memory is of an incident when I was about 15 years old. They use electrodes to electrocute hogs. Generally, this does not kill the hog, so he screamed as he was low ered into the vat of hot water to scald the

hair off before gutting him out.

Cattle are killed in a similarly humane way. A large sledgehammerlike device is used to hit them on the forehead. Generally, it does not kill them, but when the beef is hung by its back legs and allowed to bleed out, it will die. The beef is then skinned and gutted

Living in the cattle industry can also be a hard and painful lesson. It is hard to look at a carcass with "Choice" stamped on it. I spent countless hours training, feeding, grooming, showing, and just plain loving that steer. The lesson learned is that life is not fair, and it is cruel even to the things you care for the most.

They are called slaughterhouses for a reason. Killing is a messy business. To humanely kill an animal using drugs or other chemicals would contaminate the meat. To kill and not consume the remains of an animal is a sin where I come from.

Wildlife is managed by the "sport" of hunting. However, there are still a lot of people who depend on hunting and fishing to provide food.

There are more accidental shootings as the result of having handguns in the home than result from hunting. The incident in Wisconsin was not accidental, but rather an act of homicide.

1st Lt. Teri Scroggins Camp Taji, Iraq

#### Bonuses needed, equal out

In response to "Angry over re-up bonus es" (letter, Jan. 7): The bonuses are offered for several reasons, whether it be specific iob qualifications, shortages in regard to staffing positions or to maintain a particular

#### Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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One position that needs to be recognized is the fact that for most, the Army Reserve or National Guard is not a career for those who serve. Their careers are in the civilian sector. For some Reserve and Guard soldiers, serving has presented an economic difference between civilian and military

The retirement system for Reserve and Guard soldiers differs vastly from that in the regular Army. I suppose one could find an argument here, since Reserve and National Guard soldiers receive the "meat" of their retirement from the civilian sector. However, when they are deployed on active status, that portion is ignored, leaving the civilian retirement nonbeneficial and unable to grow.

So, in my opinion, it all equals out in regard to how bonuses are received. Set Michael Cruse

Camp Montieth, Kosovo

#### You're right, you're wrong

In this ever-changing world, where it has been proven over and over that usually both sides are correct with the truth lying somewhere in the middle, why can we not agree on this statement: Evolution is part of the intelligent design

Science and religion are the same thing.

both have the ultimate goal of answering this question: Why are we here? Science deals with exactness, quantifiable observations that can calculate, to ever-increasing precision, the formulae of the "grand design." Religion deals with the abstract, what

cannot be calculated but rather can be felt. I've often equated the two as such: Science is your recording of music on a compact disc; a digital reproduction of the origi-nal. Sure, you lose out on some of the ambiance, like static or tone, but it is the more-precise representation of the main idea. Religion is like an old record or magnetic tane — an analog recording that cantures everything but you lose out on the fine points I am well-schooled in the sciences and it

sickens me to see such obvious ignorance on the part of those who choose to refuse what is right in front of their face. However, at heart I am a musician, and I know there are some things in this world that come from a more "mystic" source.
So, get a grip, people, You are all incor-

rect, yet everyone is right; and if you do not understand that, perhaps by intelligent design you have been chosen to be left behind on the evolutionary ladder. Patrick F Harlow

Baumholder, Germany

#### Stripes was always there

Stars and Stripes was introduced to me during Operation Desert Storm in 1991. I really did not think much about it then.

It pursued me to Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1996 and I developed a great friendship with Stripes. During my assignment to En gland and later to Okinawa, I never missed any days without having Stripes at the dinner table.

Now, in Iraq, I would rather have my Stars and Stripes than an evening meal! Following an alarm red, through muddy puddles, freezing cold, smoky nights, I would walk to the dining facility to get my Stars and Stripes

Thank you for giving me smiles and chuckles; tears and sadness; hope and vision; and, best of all, keeping me in touch with the world - all for free. Thanks for all Stripes does for us.

Air Force Col. Sarla Saujani Balad Air Base, Iraa

#### U.N. can't slide away from Iraq oil deal he true as Volcker has suggested that Saddam Hussein's regime did not skim any-

New York Daily News

here's no flaming red flags in this stuff," Paul Volcker assured The New York Times the other day as he prepared to release dozens of the United Nations' internal audits of its Iragi oil-for-food operation. Permit us to quibble.

Even this very early, once-over-lightly report from investigator Volcker makes it plain that the \$60 billion-plus oil-for-food program was run by inattentives and dou-ble-checked by practically nobody. It may

where near the \$21.3 billion that has been tossed around on Capitol Hill, but it's apparent that the program was quite the gravy train for quite some time and that there wasn't much in the way of oversight. Quoting Volcker's own "Briefing Paper"

from the "Independent Inquiry Committee into the United Nations Oil-for-Food Programme": "The audit reports describe inad-equate procedures, policy, planning, controls and coordination across numerous areas of activity. Some reports ... present a wholesale failure of normal management and controls." "The lack of focus ... appear(s) to have de-

prived the U.N. of a potentially powerful agent in helping to ensure accountability Perhaps by "no flaming red flags," Volck-

er meant merely that the "Briefing Paper" names no particular names and is unlikely to get anybody indicted at this time. Otherwise, it certainly presents a scathing picture of managerial slovenliness - to the degree, we submit, that it will not be unreasonable for donors to wish to watch where all these tsunami-relief dollars might be going.

Doonesbury









BY GARRY TRUDEAU

STARS AND STRIPES WER SITE: WWW.STRIPES.COM

#### OPINION/OMBUDSMAN

Both sides are

sending signals

that their

people have had

enough.

# Abbas, Sharon have support, need a plan

n a region where so much has gone so wrong for so long, it is difficult to be more than cautiously optimistic about the prospects for peace and stability in the Middle East. But the latest developments do augur well.

There is opportunity at hand. If the ha tred and mistrust spawned by recent history can be overcome, leadership appears willing to forge a new future that will include an independent Palestinian state sharing the Holy Land with Israel.
President Bush has

said he expects this to happen by the end of his second term. That will require the United States to be a forceful and scrupulously honest broker between the two sides Beyond ending the violence that keeps so much

of the world away from cherished religious and historic sites, a renewed involvement in a Mideast peace process offers the United States a chance to improve its international image.

In an election that appeared largely trouble-free, Palestinians on Sunday chose Mahmoud Abbas as their new leader, replacing Yasser Arafat, who died in November. Abbas ran an almost dichotomous campaign, embracing terrorists as heroes while calling for an end to violence against Israel.

At the core, he seems to be a pragmatist, recognizing that a four-year campaign of terror against Israel has done the Palestinians far more harm than good. His wide margin of victory represents an endorsement of that view by the Palestinian people, but Abbas will have to be diligent about keeping seething terrorist elements in line

Leaders of Hamas insist they will not try to undermine Abbas, but they have not agreed

to abandon terrorism. Meantime, the Israeli Parliament on Monday approved Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's new government, restoring the majority he needs to proceed with Israel's an-

nounced pullout of military forces from the Gaza Strip, further enhancing the prospect for productive peace talks.

Both sides are sending signals that their people have had enough. The next question is where are they willing to go from here?

The path is obvious, but in the Middle East, that has rarely been the one taken



# Campaign affected, but didn't dominate, letters page

his is a follow-up column on Stripes' coverage of the 2004 political campaign in the States (the first one, "On balance, Stripes had suc-

cessful campaign," appeared in the Dec. 9 edition). It deals with **Ombudsman** letters to the editor on politics during the last four months of the cam-

paign

hundred eighty-two letters were charted. One hundred twenty-six of them percent) dealt with the campaign. Letters on the presidential candidates and politi cal philosophy totaled 96 of the 126. The re-

30 maining cam. paign-related letters were about media issues. The breakdown of the 96 letters dealing with candidates and the race was: pro-President Bush — 44 (45.8 percent); pro-Sen. John Kerry — 30 (31.3 percent); pro-conservative positions but didn't name Bush 6 (6.2 percent); pro-liberal positions but didn't name Kerry — 5 (5.2 percent); neutral — 11 (11.5 percent).

The tone, as was true of letters in the U.S. newspapers that I read, was strident on both sides in most of the letters.

A pro-Bush letter: "Having made his only qualification to be president of the United States a four-month tour in Vietnam, 'wai hero' John Kerry is being confronted with his own accounts of his service record."

A pro-Kerry letter: "Republican re-elec-tion committees, and their associates, are known for the nastiness of their campaigns against Democratic opponents. Their recent, and incredible, attack on John Kerry's Vietnam combat record reveals the depth of their nastiness and has taken the Republican Party to an all-time low.

A moderate perspective was reflected in the neutral letters. A soldier in Baghdad wrote: "I generally like to read your letters to the editor page; it is generally filled with good things and supportive things, which make people feel better. ... But all too often it is filled with negative things, such as pass ing the blame for America's problems, problems with representatives, or problems in society in general. ... The harsh reality is that re members of the greatest nation in the world and the only reason that we are that nation is because the people stood together in whatever endeavor it faced. We fought to

have the freedom that we have A sergeant in Baghdad wrote: "[As I read Stripes] I note the strong agreement or disagreement with a wide range of topics. I would just ask all of us to think about how fortunate we are able to voice our disagreement in an open forum."

In the heat of such a close and sharply partisan campaign, it was not surprising for the media to be part of the crossfire. A letter complaining about too much of Fox News Channel on American Forces Network drew two supporting letters and five letters defending AFN. There was not any substance to the original complaint that I could find.

Stripes, The Associated Press and Garry Trudeau's "Doonesbury" cartoon strip (which appears on the letters page) also drew complaints and supporters. Overall there were 15 critical letters and 11 positive letters. The complaint against Stripes was that it had shifted to the left

One officer in Iraq based his complaint on stripes being a "leftist rag" because it published only two pictures of Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's visit to coalition troons in Baghdad. The ombudsman also was criticized. After

the June 28 ombudsman column "Discovering whether Stripes stories cover all bases a reader in Germany wrote: "Please, oh, please — spare us 'a series of columns on five topics' from Stars and Stripes' ombudsman - the one I've characterized as the anologist for Stars and Stripes. He has lately 'discovered' whether Stars and Stripes stories 'cover all bases.' As you might expect, he discovers that Stars and Stripes does 'cover all bases.' Not that I disagree with him, I just figure he doesn't know what he's talking

However, it is reassuring to see that Stripes readers continue to write on a wide range of topics and are candid in their views. The subjects included:

■ A letter calling for Rumsfeld to resign

and a follow-up letter defending him: ■ Nearly a dozen letters on whether the

use of prostitutes by military personnel should be prohibited;

■ Gasoline prices and the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (the number of letters on this topic is down since my last review, but there is still great interest in that

A debate over which NFL games AFN should televise It was good news to see not a single letter

about mail problems. It also was pleasing to see a large number of letters from Iraq. Of the 282 letters charted, 117 (41 percent) were from military personnel serving in Iraq. On politics, 11 of the 44 pro-Bush letwere from Iraq: three of the 30 pro-Kerry letters were from Iraq. My conclusion: Stripes continues to carry

out its mission of providing through the letter pages a great forum for the military community overseas.

Send comments to Joe Ungaro at: Ombudsman, Stars and Stripes, 529 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Washington, D.C. 20045-1301. Phone civilian +1(401) 364-6032; fax +1(401) 364-8696; or e-mail:

#### Mallard Fillmore



#### YOUR MONEY

# Dynamic stability control helps keep cars from losing control

Click and Clack

Dear Tom and Ray:

My husband and I recently moved from Connecticut to Colorado, and are considering buying a new

We have a 2000 BMW 528i, which I have loved, but because we are now in a place with a lot more snow and in a county with a lot of dirt and gravel roads, it doesn't really fit our needs anymore. Neither of us wants a sport utility chicle, but we have been considering the Subaru Outback Wagon. My

question: The vehicle dynamics control is only available on the most expensive model. Is that

system worth the extra cost? Tom and R
My husband is suspicious of
any system that claims to take over for the driver—
probably because when he was younger, he raced
cars, and he likes to feel as if he always has control
— but I will be the main driver of the car, and Fm a
normal driver. Is it warth it? Thanks so much

Dee
TOM: The short answer is yes. It IS worth it. More
and more studies are showing that dynamic stability
control (often referred to by a confusing array of acronyms like VDC, DSC, ESP, MSPCA, etc.) does do
a lot to help people avoid accidents.

RAY: Dynamic stability control is one of the newest electronic forms of skid control. These systems work by using sensors to detect signs of a skid, and then limiting acceleration and applying the brakes on individual wheels to regain control of the car.

TOM: Why do you want to prevent a skid? Well, once you're skidding — once the tires are no longer in full contact with the road — it's very hard to control the car. You're much more likely to plow into something, be it another car, a tree or a mango-smoothie stand by the side of the road.

RAY: These days, the three major anti-skid systems are: ABS, or antilock-brake systems, which help you avoid skidding when you're making an

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+16.4

+5.06 +8.20

emergency stop; TCS, or traction control, which helps you avoid skids while you accelerate; and iDSC (or whatever each manufacturer happens to call its wersion of dynamic stability control), which helps you avoid skids while you're moving and turning. DSC helps prevent you from losing control of the car when you take a corner too fast or swerve to avoid somethine. And it works.

TOM: So, if it's available — and sadly, Subaru only makes it available on the top-of-the-line Out-

back — we'd recommend it.

RAY: Your husband — like most guys who take his position — is wrong. Sure, we all want to be "in control." But the fact is

that microcomputers can handle certain tasks better than even the most skilled driver ever could. The computer that controls these systems can pulse an individual wheel's brake 10 or 15 times per second. A human driver could never do that.

TOM: Of course, most cars with stability control have a switch that allows you to turn it off. So, if your husband is determined to have control, he can turn off the system, make some high-speed swerves and crash your new car into a chicken coop to prove our point.

RAY: But dynamic stability control is something we DO recommend, when it's available. And we hope it will be available on more cars and SUVs as a time goes by (Ford just announced that it's putting it on all its SUVs in 2005, and Chevy is putting it on its full-size SIVs and vans).

TOM: By the way, Dee, the Subaru Outback is a very nice car. But since you love your BMW, you might also consider the BMW 325xi. It's smaller than your current 528i, but it comes with all-wheel-drive and dynamic stability control.

Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or e-mail them by visiting the Car Talk section of cars.com on the World Wide Web. Distributed by King Features Syndicate Inc.

#### EYCHANGE BATES

LACHANGE N	AIES
Military rates	
Euro costs	\$1.3504
Dollar buys	€0.7405
British pound	
Japanese ven (Jan. 14)	101.00
South Korean won (Jan. 13)	1.015.00
Commercial rate	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.377
British pound	\$1,8914
Canada (Dollar)	1.1995
Denmark (Krone)	5.30
Egypt (Pound)	5.9549
Euro\$1	1.3271/0.7535
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7936
Hungary (Forint)	186.03
Iceland (Krona)	61.52
Israel (Shekel)	4.3668
Japan (Yen)	102.35
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2919
Norway (Krone)	5.84
Philippines (Peso)	55.83
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.58
Singapore (Dollar)	1.6327
South Korea (Won)	
Switzerland (Franc)	1.10

vitzerland (Franc)1.10
nailand (Baht)39.00
ırkev (New Lira)1.3555
(Military exchange rates are those
railable to customers at military bank-
g facilities in the country of issuance
r Japan, South Korea, Germany, the
etherlands and the United Kingdom.
r nonlocal currency exchange rates
e., purchasing British pounds in Germa-
), check with your local military bank-
g facility. Commercial rates are inter-
ink rates provided for reference when
lying currency. All figures are foreign

# British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is PRECIOUS METALS

#### INTEREST RATES

# Prime rate ... 5.25 Discount rate ... 3.25 Federal funds market rate ... 2.25 3-month bill ... 2.33 30-year bond ... 4.77 Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of

# Workers thankful for jobs, not war

BY DAVID STREITFELD

Los Angeles Times

OPP, Ala. — Euna DuBose works in a factory sewing camouflage trousers for Marines. As the grandmother of three soldiers, this gives her some uneasy moments.

An extra-small pair of pants will make her think, this fel-low's just a baby. She'll wonder: Will he get home safe' And what about her son's sons—one in Afghanistan, one awaiting or ders in Mississippi, one just home from Mosul but perhaps destined to return to Iraq' Du-Bose never had thoughts like this with her last job, when she made Levi's.

made Levi's.

"I'd rather be doing jeans,"
the 70-year-old said. "No emotions were involved."

She doesn't have much choice

The last jeans factory here failed two years ago. But the Ma-

rine-uniform plant is thriving. The war in Iraq is giving a boost to Opp and many other communities. Over the past two years, military spending has become a pillar of the economy for the first time since President Reagan ordered the Cold War buildup of the mid-1980s.

Defense spending accounted for 11 percent of the third quarter's economic growth, double the rate of two years ago, according to government figures released recently. That number underestimates

That number underestimates the effect of the war, analysts say, because it doesn't account for military contractors upping orders of equipment and raw material from their own suppliers, creating a wide ripple.

Companies in Evansville, Ind., Union City, Calif., Mullins, S.C., and McAllen, Texas, have just been awarded contracts totaling \$91 million to make soldiers' Meals, Ready-to-Eat. Companies in Mount Gilead and Waynesville, N.C., Belleville, Ill., and Atlanta won contracts worth a combined \$70 million to make hot-weather boots. In San Ramon, Calif., ChevronTexaco Corp. received a \$108 million contract for jet fuel.

All of these contracts were awarded by the Defense Logistics Agency, an arm of the Defense Department that buys apparel, fuel, medicine, construction material and repair parts. For the fiscal year ended Sept. 30, the agency bought \$28 billion worth of materiel and services, up 12 percent from the previous year.

No one is tracking what the spending is doing to employment, but the effect might be considerable. Sopakco Inc., the South Carolina company making MREs, publicized a \$35 million contract extension two

years ago as creating 250 jobs.

Opp needs any stimulus it can get. Its heyday was 20 years ago, when this region near the Florida border was thick with

apparel plants.
The quest for cheaper labor drove all those factories to Mexico, the Caribbean and Central America. That caused a downturn that left Opp's downtown with 14 empty stores along its two-block width. Even the McDonald's recently closed.

Yet if the war is providing Opp with a rare jolt of economic adrenalin, the reason for the work prompts ambivalence. "If it weren't for the war, we

wouldn't have a job. But that doesn't mean it's good that there's a war," said Patricia Walker, who outlines the flies on 600 pairs of trousers a day. "It makes my head spin." Walker's daughter, Salena, is stationed with the National Guard

# Cents and Sensibility Money tip of the day

#### Charity deadline extended

CBS MarketWatch

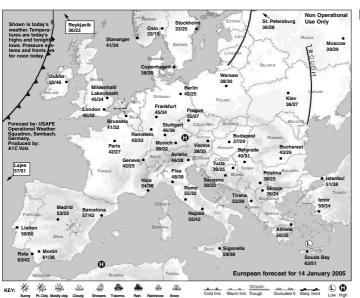
NEW YORK — Congress has just passed a law enabling you to donate money for tsunami victims through Jan. 31 and still get a break on your 2004 taxes.

The donations must be made in cash, and they must benefit sunami victims. The extended deadline doesn't apply to other good intentions, such as charitable gifts to your alma mater, a check to your church or a bag of winter clothes for a local shelter.

Before you donate, make sure you're giving to a reputable organization. Scams tend to spring up after a disaster. Check out the charity at Charity Navigator, a nonprofit organization that evaluates and ranks charitable organizations. The Web site (www.charitynavigator.com) offers a list of its top-ranked charities providing tsunami aid.

Your total tax-deductible chartable donations, including cash and noncash items, are limited to 50 percent of your adjusted gross income. Deductions are valid only for gifts to a recognized charity, meaning it has IRS approval to register as a tax-exempt organization.

When you donate, remember to get a receipt from the charity for tax purposes.



#### EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 40s. Saturday lows in the lower 30s.

Britain, Ireland: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 40s to lower 50s. Saturday lows in the mid 30s to mid 40s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Mostly cloudy with isolated afternoon snowshowers. Highs in the upper 30s. Saturday lows in the mid 20:

France: Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 40s to lower 50s. Saturday lows in the mid 20s to mid 30s.

Northern Germany: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower to mid 40s. Saturday lows in the mid 20s to mid 30s.

Southern Germany: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 30s to mid 40s. Saturday lows in the mid 20s to mid

Hungary: Mostly cloudy with after-noon snowshowers. Highs in the upper 30s. Saturday lows in the upper 20s.

Northern Italy: Sunny. Highs in the upper 40s to upper 50s. Saturday lows in the upper 20s to upper 30s. Southern Italy: Partly cloudy. Highs

in the mid to upper 50s. Saturday lows in the lower 30s to lower 40s.

Kosovo: Partly cloudy with morning fog. Highs in the upper 30s. Saturday lows in the mid 20s.

Norway: Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 30s to lower 40s. Saturday lows in the upper 10s to upper 20s.

Portugal, Spain: Partly cloudy with isolated morning rainshowers. Highs in the lower 50s to lower 60s. Saturday lows in the mid 30s to mid 40s in Spain, lower 50s in Portugal.

Turkey: Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50s to lower 60s. Saturday lows in the mid to upper 30s.

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAFE Operational Weather Squadron home page at: https://ows.sembach.af.mil tp://ows.public.sembach.af.mil





#### TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

AFRICA

88 87

49

22 Cidy 18 Rain -14 PCidy 70 Cir 34 Cir 63 PCidy 11 PCidy 30 Cir 71 Rain 24 PCidy 34 Cir 63 PCidy 25 PCidy 65 Snow 25 PCidy 71 Cir 23 PCidy 25 PCidy 26 PCidy 27 PCidy 27 PCidy 28 PCid 82 58 48 25 52 68 17 17 80 41 57 57 57 57 44 69 36 48 60 Juneau Kansas City Key West Knoxville Lake Charle Lansing Las Vegas Lexington Lincoln Show POddy Clir Clir POldy POldy Cli -6 32 26 70 27 -3 12 33 20 5 45 43 82 55 12 2 61 Cldy POIds St Louis St Thorn

61/39

50/32

Kuwait City

Incirlik

63/37

Tel Aviv

68/51

31 Cir 47 Cr 44 Cr 41 Cr 71 PCldy 5 Cldy 5 Cldy 48 Rain 26 Cr 20 Cr 6 PCldy 13 Snow 7 PCldy 17 PCldy 17 PCldy 17 PCldy 17 PCldy 17 PCldy 18 Snow 5 Cr 7 PCldy 14 Cldy 5 F PCldy 60 65 56 59 82 47 11 64 37 52 0 4 Snov PCId

45/22

52/27

Kandaha

80/57

55/33

THE UNITED STATES TODAY

MIDEAST

72/47

88/67

87/60



As of poor Eastern IIS time



# Clean Car Windows & Lights!

BE AROUND TO

Buckle Up! Slow Down! Drive to Arrive!

**IMA Europe** 

are About Your Safety!

US Army in Europe



PAGE 18 STARS AND S

#### AG issues warning

MA BOSTON — Attorney General Thomas F. Reilly has warned nursing home owners and managers that they may be violating workers' civil rights by imposing English-only policies that ban them from speaking their native languages, even on breaks. Nursing homes in re-

cent years have relied on immigrants, many of them Haitian, to take difficult jobs, including bathing and feeding elderly residents and push-

ing their wheelchairs. But some say workplace discrimination is on the rise as well. Advocates say nursing homes im-

pose English-only policies that apply even to meal breaks and private telephone conversations. Reilly issued an advisory opin-

ion to owners warning them that these policies may violate workers' civil rights and open them to legal action Officials from Reilly's office and

the Massachusetts Extended Care Federation have scheduled a seminar for nursing home operators on how to prevent discrimination in the workplace.

Haitian immigrants make up as much as 80 percent of nursing assistants, advocates say

#### **Bus driver arrested**

TN CLARKSVILLE school bus driver has been arrested on charges of sexually assaulting two of his foster children in Maine more than three years

Roger J Guimond 57 of Clarks ville faces five counts of sexual assault of a juvenile and seven counts of unlawful sexual contact with a juvenile in cases dating to 2001. He was arrested at his home, said Deputy Danny Shelton of the U.S. Marshal's Service office in Nashville.

He was taken to the Montgomery County Jail and awaits extradition to Maine

Guimond moved to Clarksville from Augusta about two years ago, the Marshal's Service said. He was arrested after marshals received a tip from the Maine State Police that he was living in the town located about 50 miles northwest of Nashville

Guimond was hired as a substitute bus driver for Clarks-ville-Montgomery County Schools in March 2003, and moved to full-time status in May 2003. He also worked as a bus driver in

Guimond was placed on unpaid leave by the school system.

He has no known criminal histor rv. and Guimond's personnel file shows he has never been disciplined and no complaints have been filed against him

#### 2 skiers rescued

GRAND JUNCTION -Rescue crews found a woman and her daughter alive two days after they failed to return from cross-country skiing, but the woman's husband was still miss-

Debra Walker and 18-year-old Camille were found at about 8 a.m., Mesa County sheriff's spokeswoman Susan McBurney said. She did not have details on their condi-



#### **AMERICAN** ROUNDUP

tion, but said they did not require medical evacuation from Grand Mesa in western Colorado.

She said there was no word on Dan Walker

The three skiers had been reported missing a day after they set out. Up to 8 feet of snow had fallen on the top of 10,500-foot-high Grand Mesa and temperatures have been in the 20s, the National Weather Service said

#### States sign agreement

TX AUSTIN — Gov. Rick Perry has signed a concealed handgun reciprocity agreement with Colorado. Texas now has agreements with 15 states to allow citizens with concealed handgun nermits to legally carry those weapons. The others are Arkansas, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, North Carolina, Oklahoma. Tennessee. Utah and Wvoming.

#### School forums planned

WA SEATTLE — The school board is holding seven forums to establish criteria for closing schools. The district needs to close buildings because of a budget gap and declining enrollment.

Elementary schools are at 80 percent canacity and middle schools at 70 percent

#### Kraft's curbs food ads

NORTHFIELD — Kraft Foods plans to curb advertis-



Run in the sun A runner moves along the Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu, Calif.

ing of Oreos, regular Kool-Aid and other popular snack foods to children vounger than 12 as part of an effort to encourage better

The company, the na-tion's biggest food manufacturer, also said it would begin labeling some healthier products with a flag touting their benefits

The new marketing program comes as food companies are facing rising criticism from some consumer groups and others that they are contributing to obesity in children.

Two years ago, Kraft had already moved to reduce the fat content in 200 products, cap portions for single-serve packaged snacks and quit marketing snacks at

As part of the new marketing program, a "Sensible Solution label would appear on products high in nutrients such as fiber or calcium or those with low fat, sugar or sodium.

#### 60 days for noose

CLEARWATER — A man accused of draping a noose around the shoulders of a black teen at a fast food restaurant was sentenced to 60 days in jail.

The judge also sentenced Louis Giannola IV who was convicted in December of misdemeanor battery, to 10 months probation and community service. He was spared a harsher sentence because jurors declined to label the incident a hate crime

In a brief statement read in court the 20-year-old Giannola anologized to the victim and said he now understands the hurt he caused. Giannola also asked Dionte Hall and his family for forgive-

Giannola was arrested after he draped a noose around the neck of Hall, 15, while they and other teens were at a Wendy's restaurant in Largo in January 2004. Prosecutors contend some people Giannola was with were heard making racial slurs.

Giannola said he did not put the noose around Hall's neck out of hate but because another teen, whose own father is black, bet him \$10 he wouldn't do it

#### Dead tiger causes stir

CA SACRAMENTO — The first 911 caller reported a 400-pound animal on the northbound lane of Highway 99. Another reported a lion.

Then a tiger

'We got there and confirmed it was in fact a tiger," said California Highway Patrol Sgt. John Mason, who added that it had a very long tail and very big paws.

Mason said a veterinarian told him the animal had been euthanized and was being taken to the University of California-Davis for an autopsy.

The veterinarian was driving behind an associate who drove a pickup truck that swerved to avoid another car. The maneuver ejected the tiger from the truck.

Mason said the tiger's veterinarian was affiliated with PAWS, or Performing Animal Welfare Society, which cares for abandoned or abused exotic animals. Mason said a tow truck hoisted the 400-pound tiger off the freeway.



About to get a face full of snow 10, bottom, and her sister, Carly, 8, wrestle in the snow at Shiawassee River Walk Park in Fenton, Mich.



A clothes line in north Champaign County near West Icv grip Liberty, Ohio, holds only ice. An icy winter storm snapped trees and power lines and steady rain pushed rivers beyond their banks in other parts of the state.



Slider Middle School students Krysta Moli-Talking mule? na, center, and Karina Brasgalla, far right, watch a mule as they wait for the departure of a wagon train from the Socorro Mission in Socorro, Texas. The mules are part of an effort to retrace by wagon train, in reverse, part of the route of mid-1800s gold rush adventurer William P. Huff's trip from Houston to near Fresno, Calif.



Dueling Elvises Simon Luxton, an Elvis Presley performer from Wellingborough, England, stares into the eyes of the "Elvis at 13" statue while visiting the Elvis Presley Birthplace in Tupelo, Miss., with other British tourists.



Whoa, can't stop ary lagoon in Green Bay, Wis.

A black mallard duck slides in for a landing on the ice in the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctu-



Up on the roof Oscar Vasquez, of Safeside Chimnev Contractors, works on a "roof up" rebuild of a chimney at a residence on Cedar Street in Norwich.



From left, dancers Haley Argo, 3, of Ashaway, R.I.; Danielle Christina, 4, of Pawca-Tiny dancers tuck, Conn.; Julia Thornton, 4, of Westerly, R.I.; Caelan Holdredge, 3, of Westerly, R.I.; and Lindsey Maresca, 4, of Westerly, R.I., work on their tap steps during a preschool ballet and tap dance class in Westerly, R.I.

#### Charged with murder

MA LANESBORO — A 20-year-old man was arrested on charges of murdering his stenfather in the first homicide in this Berkshire County town in nearly 25 years, authorities said.

Christopher Robinson was ordered held on \$1 million bail pending his arraignment in Central Berkshire District Court in the killing of Neil E. Olsen, 48, of Lanesboro, said Berkshire District Attornev David Capeless. Capeless said a preliminary au-

topsy report showed Olsen died of multiple gunshot wounds and blows to his head.

His body was found on the floor of a horse stall in the barn at his Main Street home, Capeless said. The Berkshire Eagle reported that Olsen had a sign and truck paint-ing business in the barn.

Authorities did not comment on a possible motive.

#### 2 arrested in shooting

MS MERIDIAN — Two people were arrested in a fatal shooting at a hospital that may have been related to an earlier murder-suicide attempt, police

One of the suspects was arrested at Rush Foundation Hospital and the other turned himself in to police, Meridian Police Chief Benny Dubose said. Both were expected to be charged.

The man fatally shot at the hospital was the son of a man who Dubose said shot himself and a woman at a Meridian home in an apparent murder-suicide attempt. Dubose said one of the suspects is the woman's son.

The man and woman found at the home did not suffer life-threatening injuries. The fatal shooting victim's name was not immediately released by authorities.

#### Teacher suspended

MI DEARBORN — A middle school teacher has been suspended with pay while officials investigate a report he told his students that Bedouin Arabs used the Ouran as toilet paper.

The teacher is on the faculty of Woodworth Middle School in Dearborn, a Detroit suburb of 100,000. About 30,000 Dearborn residents are Arab-American.

Bedouins are members of histori-cally nomadic tribes and make up about 10 percent of the population of the Middle East. The Ouran is the Muslim holy book.

Parents complained to the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee and the Council on American-Islamic Relations. Imad Hamad, Michigan director of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, said the teacher should anologize

#### Cuts to health program

TN NASHVILLE — More than 320,000 adults will be cut from TennCare under cost-saving plans proposed by Gov. Phil Bredesen, a move advocates called a "Draconian" reaction to the expanded Medicaid program's spiraling price tag.

Bredesen tried to put the best light on the cuts, saying he found a way to keep all children covered while preventing TennCare from bankrupting the state.

His plan calls for eliminating

323,000 adults from a program that covers roughly 1.4 million people - while retaining coverage for all 612,000 children on the program. There also will be reductions in benefits and a plan to move back to managed care organizations - as long as they accept part of the financial risk.

Many other states have been watching what happens TennCare, once hailed as a model in state-federal partnership for solving the country's health insur-

#### Metro cracks down

MINNEAPOLIS — Metro Transit police say they're increasing efforts to catch riders who don't nurchase tickets for the Hiawatha light-rail line, which relies partly on the honor system to collect fares. The fine for fare evasion is \$140, plus about \$40 in court costs. Stations have no entry turnstiles, and transit police perform random checks for tickets and nasses

#### Cow washes in with tide

CA SAN FRANCISCO — The highest tide of the year brought an unusual visitor to Ocean Beach — a dead cow.

While it is not unusual for dead sea animals such as sea lions and whales to wash up on the beach, this was the first time anyone could remember that a cow ended up on the coast of San Francisco.

The all-black animal is bigger than a calf and smaller than a dairy cow. It was reported to the National Park Police by a visitor. Where the animal came from or how it got in the ocean is a mys-

"We've never had a dead cow on the beach before," said National Park Service spokesman Rich

#### **Builders replicating boat**

ME ROCKPORT — Boat builders are replicating one of the three ships that carried settlers to Virginia in 1607 to establish the first permanent English settlement in the New World. Rockport Marine is building the 88-foot Godspeed for the Jamestown Settlement's living history museum. The \$2.2 million ship is expected to be completed next year.

#### Plans for merger

CA LOS ANGELES — Voters may decide whether to merge the Los Angeles International Airport police with the city police. A City Council committee voted unanimously to support a ballot measure to remove a City Charter provision requiring an independent airport police force. The recommendation goes to the full council later this month

#### Bargaining rescinded

INDIANAPOLIS — Gov.
Mitch Daniels rescinded executive orders that established collective bargaining and allowed union settlements for about 25,000 state workers, saying they were cumbersome and would hinder his plans to reorganize state government. The move drew criticism from The Unity Team, a union that represents more than 14,000 state employees.

Stories and photos from wire services

			AFE	TS Televisio	n Schedule			
		Updated sports listi	ngs are available on the firs	Scoreboard page in the spo FRIDAY, JANUARY 14.	orts section or AFN's Web si	te at http://myafn.dodmedia.	osd.mil/	
	(AFN-FAMILY)	(AFN-MOVIE)	(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)
9:00	Stanley	Movie "No Greater Love"	Dr. Phil	Jeopardy!	Nightline	PGA Golf Sony Open First	30-Minute Meals	Jeopardy!
9:30	Sagwa-Siamese Cat	(1996, Drama) Kelly Rutherford, Chris Sarandon.	Ī	Headline News	Headline News	Round. From Waialae Country Club in Honolulu. (Taped)	Easy Entertaining-Chiarello	Headline News
10:00	Arthur (EI)		(9:46) Oprah Winfrey	ESPNews	Hardball With Chris Matthews	Ciub in Honoiuiu. (Taped)	Decorating Cents	ESPNews
10:30	Reading Rainbow (EI) Sagwa-Siamese Cat	(:45) Movie ** * "The Elec- tric Horseman" (1979) Robert	(:35) Guiding Light	Advisory Block	The O'Reilly Factor		The Look for Less E! News Live	Pacific Report
11:00 11:30	Sagwa-Siamese Cat Stanley	Redford, Jane Fonda, A former	(:17) General Hospital	King of the Hill That '70s Show	The O Helliy Factor	SportsCenter	The King of Queens	King of the Hill That '70s Show
12:00	Dora the Explorer	rodeo champion kidnaps his sponsor's Thoroughbred.	Headline News	Meet My Folks 'The Maloneys	Primetime Thursday	ороличения	That '70s Show	Wife Swap "Spolansky/Bradley
12:30	The Wiggles "History"	l	Judge Judy	Part III"	·	College Basketball Duke at	Girlfriends	
13:00	Bob the Builder	Movie ★★% "Murphy's Ro- mance" (1985) Sally Field. A	Today Neal McDonough; It's CoioTime.	Fear Factor	Fox and Friends	North Carolina State. (Taped)	Charmed "P3 H20"	Fear Factor
13:30	Dragon Tales (EI) Blue's Clues "Let's Boogie"	May-December romance	COOPTING.	Pacific Report	Fox and Friends	•	Ally McBeal "I Want Love"	Pacific Report
14:30	Barney & Friends Creativity.	blooms in a small Arizona town.		The Tonight Show With Jay		College Basketball UCLA at	Any modean i man core	The Tonight Show With Jay
15:00	Funniest Home Videos	(2:54) Movie * * "American Gigolo" (1980) Richard Gere.	Teacher's Pet "Fifi" (EI)	Leno	American Morning	Arizona State. (Taped)	Any Day Now "Courage It Means Heart"	Leno
15:30	Full House Pokémon "Abandon Ship"	A hired companion for wealthy	What's New Scooby-Doo? Ozzy & Drix	Late Show With David Letter- man	CNN Live Today		Third Watch "History of the	Late Show With David Letter- man
16:00 16:30	Yu-Gi-Oh!	women is framed for murder.	Codename: Kids Next Door	Access Hollywood	CHIN Live loudy	NBA Fastbreak	World'	Access Hollywood
17:00	Doug "Doug's Brain Drain"	Alyssa Milano Revealed Ac-	Jeopardy!	Headline News	1	SportsCenter	Law & Order "Merger"	Headline News
17:30	Rocket Power (Part 2 of 3)	tress Alyssa Milano.	Headline News	The Late Late Show				The Late Late Show
18:00	The Fairly OddParents Rugrats	Hollywood Backstories Entertainment Tonight	ESPNews AFN Evening News	Dennis Miller	FOX News	Inside the NFL	The Simpsons Everybody Loves Raymond	Dennis Miller
18:30 19:00	All Grown Up	Movie ** "Hollow Man"	King of the Hill	Dennis Miller	Primetime Thursday	ESPNews	Charmed "It's a Bad, Bad	Derinis miner
19:30	Dave the Barbarian	(2000) Kevin Bacon, Elisabeth	That '70s Show	Countdown-Olbermann	1	College Basketball Oregon	World, Parts One and Two"	Countdown-Olbermann
20:00	Danny Phantom	Shue. An experiment in invisibil- ity goes horribly wrong.	Wife Swap "Spolansky/Bradley"	Entertainment Studios.com	FOX News	State at Washington State. (Taped)	Chris and Leo wind up in an al- ternate world where evil rules.	Entertainment Studios.com
20:30	Drake & Josh "Movie Job" That's So Raven	(:07) Movie ★s "I Know What	Fear Factor	Good Morning America	Studio B With Shepard Smith	(Tapoo)	Blue Planet: Seas of Life	Good Morning America
21:00	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch	You Did Last Summer" (1997.	Fear Factor	Good Morning America	Studio B With Snepard Smith	The Hot List	"Coasts"	Good Morning America
22:00	Switched! "Anna and Julia"	Horror) Jennifer Love Hewitt, Sarah Michelle Gellar	Headline News	†		1st & 10	Friends	1
22:30	Radio Free Roscoe		The Tonight Show With Jay		Your World With Neil Cavuto	NFL Live	Seinfeld "The Outing"	
23:00	The Cosby Show Home Improvement	Movie *** "White Men Can't Jump" (1992)	Late Show-Letterman	Oobi Clifford's Puppy Days (EI)	Lester Holt Live	Around the Horn Pardon the Interruption	Daily Show-Jon Stewart Blind Date	Oobi
23:30	Home improvement	oun (ounp (root)	Late Snow-Letterman	SATURDAY, JANUARY 1	F 200F	Pardon the Interruption	Bling Date	Clifford's Puppy Days (EI)
00:00	Aaahh! Real Monsters	"White Men Can't Jump"	Late Show-Letterman	All Grown Up	Headline News	Sports Center	Late Night With Conan	All Grown Up
00:30	Rocket Power	(:45) Movie ★★% *King	Access Hollywood	Powerpuff Girls! Prank calls.	NBC Nightly News		O'Brien	Dave the Barbarian
1:00	SpongeBob SquarePants	Kong" (1976, Fantasy) Jeff Bridges, Jessica Lange. An oil	NFL Live	Danny Phantom	ABC World News Tonight	PGA Golf Sony Open Sec- ond Round. From Waialae	Charmed "It's a Bad, Bad World, Parts One and Two"	Danny Phantom
1:30	Rugrats All Grown Up	mogul seeks to exploit a mon- strous ape in New York.	NBA Shootaround NBA Basketball Dallas Mayer-	Drake & Josh "Movie Job" NBA Basketball Orlando Mao-	CBS Evening News The NewsHour With Jim	Country Club in Honolulu.	Chris and Leo wind up in an al-	Drake & Josh "Movie Job" NBA Basketball Orlando Mag-
2:30	Dave the Barbarian	strous ape in New York.	icks at San Antonio Spurs.	in at Datroit Pistone From the	Lehrer	(Taped)	ternate world where evil rules.	ic at Detroit Pistons. From the
3:00	Danny Phantom	Movie ★★% "Hollow Man"	From the SBC Center in San Antonio. (Live)	Palace of Auburn Hills in Auburn Hills, Mich. (Live)	Hannity & Colmes		Blue Planet: Seas of Life	Palace of Auburn Hills in Auburn Hills, Mich. (Live)
3:30	Drake & Josh "Movie Job" That's So Rayen	(2000) Kevin Bacon, Elisabeth Shue. An experiment in invisibil-			Headline News	ESPNews	"Coasts" Friends	(===)
4:00 4:30	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch	ity goes horribly wrong.	ESPNews	ESPNews	Nightly Business Report	Pardon the Interruption NBA Basketball Minnesota	Seinfeld "The Outing"	ESPNews
5:00	Sesame Street (EI)	(:07) Movie ★% "I Know What	Headline News	WWE Raw	Lou Dobbs Tonight	Timberwolves at Denver	Breathingspace Yoga	WWE Raw
5:30		You' Did Last Summer" (1997, Horror) Jennifer Love Hewitt.	ESPNews			Nuggets. From the Pepsi Cen- ter in Denver. (Live)	Caribbean Workout	
6:00	Barney & Friends (EI) Blue's Clues	Sarah Michelle Gellar.	Headline News Headline News	Headline News Navv/Marine Corps News	Larry King Live		Body Shaping Every Woman	Headline News Navv/Marine Corps News
6:30 7:00	Planet's Funniest Animals	Movie *** "The Out-of-	Oobi	The Mummy	NewsNight With Aaron Brown	SportsCenter	Beautiful Homes-Estates	That's So Raven
7:30	Amazing Animal Videos	Towners" (1970) Jack Lemmon.	Clifford's Puppy Days (EI)	Operation Junkyard (EI)	1 '	l ·	Curb Appeal	Switched! "Anna and Julia"
8:00	Lilo & Stitch "The Asteroid"	A vacationing couple encounter countless urban disasters.	All Grown Up	Radio Free Roscoe	BET Nightly News	Inside the NFL	Landscapers' Challenge	Radio Free Roscoe
9:00	Teamo Supremo (EI) Static Shock (Part 2 of 2)	(8:52) Movie *** "Twister"	Dave the Barbarian Danny Phantom	American Adventurer Access Hollywood	Tavis Smiley Nightline	NBA Basketball Dallas Mayer-	Weekend Warriors Clean House	American Adventurer Access Hollywood
9:00	Kim Possible (EI)	(1996, Drama) Helen Hunt.	Drake & Josh 'Movie Job'	1	Air Force TV News	icks at San Antonio Spurs. From the SBC Center in San	Clean House	Access Honywood
10:00	Teen Titans	Storm chasers race to test a new tornado-monitoring device.	That's So Raven	Headline News	Hardball With Chris Matthews	From the SBC Center in San Antonio. (Taped)	BBQ With Bobby Flay	Headline News
10:30	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turt.		Switched! "Anna and Julia"	ESPNews	7. 000 11. 5	(rapos)	\$40-a-Day	ESPNews
11:00	Dragonball GT Justice League	Movie * * * * "To Kill a Mockinobird" (1962, Drama)	Focus on the Force American Adventurer	George Lopez Half & Half	The O'Reilly Factor	Sports Center	Fashion Police It's Good to Be	According to Jim Half & Half
12:00	Teen Kids News (EI)	Mockingbird" (1962, Drama) Gregory Peck, Mary Badham.	Access Hollywood	CSI: Miami "The Oath"	Dateline NBC	oportobelitei	101 Most Unforgettable SNL	CSI: Miami "The Oath"
12:30	Tutenstein (EI)	Two youngsters witness racial prejudice in the Deep South.				NFL Live	Moments	
13:00	Trading Space: Boy-Girl		WWE Raw	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Criminal"	CNN Saturday Morning	NFL Matchup	Intimate Portrait "Madeleine Albright"	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Criminal"
13:30 14:00	Scout's Safari "Know It All" Skunked TV "Bird Brain" En-	(:25) Movie **** "Schindler's List" (1993, Dra-	According to Jim	Headline News	Economy Watch	NBA Basketball Minnesota Timberwolves at Denver	Antiques Roadshow 1 as Ve-	Headline News
14:30	dangered owl.	ma) Liam Neeson, Ben Kings-	Half & Half	Saturday Night Live		Nuggets. From the Pepsi Cen- ter in Denver	gas, Nevada" (Part 2 of 3)	Saturday Night Live
15:00	The Most Extreme "Predators"	ley, Ralph Fiennes. A war profi- teer saves his Jewish workers	CSI: Miami "The Oath"	1	CNN Saturday Morning		Star Trek: Voyager "Elogium"	1
15:30	Hercules: The Legendary	from death.	Law & Order: Special Victims	Kickin' It I atest in music and	Bulls and Bears	Wire to Wire SportsCenter	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kickin' It I atest in music and
16:00	Journeys		Unit "Criminal"	trends.	Cavuto on Business	Sportscenter	nipley's believe it or not	trends.
17:00	Doug (EI)	Movie ★★% "Disney's The	Headline News	The Entertainers	Forbes	NFL Countdown	Fear Factor	The Entertainers
17:30	Rocket Power (Part 2 of 3)	Kid" (2000) Bruce Willis. An image consultant magically en-	Navy/Marine Corps News		America's Black Forum	1		
18:00	The Fairly OddParents	counters his younger self.	SportsCenter	ESPNews ESPNews	CNN Live Saturday	Beyond the Glory	What Not to Wear "Celita" Ath- lete wears track outfits.	ESPNews ESPNews
18:30 19:00	Rugrats Vanishing cream.  Movie **s "Angels in the	Movie ++ : "Shaft" (2000	College Basketball Teams to	College Basketball Teams to	Weekend Live With Tony	ESPNews	While You Were Out "New Jer-	College Basketball Teams to
19:00	Endzone" (1997) Christopher	Action) Samuel I. Jackson A	Be Announced. (Live)	Be Announced. (Live)	Snow	College Basketball Teams to	sey: Woodland Court*	Be Announced. (Live)
20:00	Lloyd, Matthew Lawrence.	former cop vows to bring a murderous racist to justice.	1		Wall Street Journal	Be Announced. (Live)	Tru Calling "Morning After"	1
20:30	Movie ** "Life With Mikey" (1993, Comedy) Michael J. Fox,	(8:50) Movie ** "Don't Sav	ļ	Headline News	Army Newswatch Next at CNN		1-800-Missing "Basic Training"	Headline News
21:00 21:30	Christina Vidal.	a Word" (2001, Suspense)	NFL Today (Live)	NFL Today (Live)	mext at CNN		1-000-Missing Basic Iraining	NFL Today (Live)
22:00	My So-Called Life 'Guns and	Michael Douglas, Sean Bean, Brittany Murphy.			FOX News	College Basketball Stanford at		1
22:30	Gossip"		NFL Football AFC Divisional Playoff Team TBA at Pitts-	NFL Football AFC Divisional Playoff Team TBA at Pitts-		California. (Live)	Seinfeld "The Implants"	NFL Football AFC Divisional Playoff Team TBA at Pitts-
23:00	The Simpsons The Simpsons	Movie *** "Leaving Las Vegas" (1995, Drama)	burgh Steelers. (Live)	burgh Steelers. (Live)	FOX News		The Real World Punk'd	burgh Steelers. (Live)
23:30								



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#### **FACES**

# A true 'Blue' star

#### On ABC's long-running police drama, Dennis Franz prepares to turn in badae

by where [police]

officers don't come

on the set, swapping

stories, taking

pictures, giving us

attabous, When

we film in

New York, theu're

BY DEBRA LEITHAUSER The Washington Post

welve seasons ago Detective Andy Sipowicz came on the scene, and, oh, what a charmer he was. Balding and full-bellied, NYP-D's finest was crass, crude and rude

There wasn't much to love but viewers managed to find it and kept tuning in for more of "NYPD Blue," the ABC drama that's gar-

20 Emmys dur-ends this sea-

Behind Sip owicz's volatile facade is Dennis Franz. 60, no newcomer to the cop beat. previously teamed with "NYPD Blue" creator Steven Bochco for anoth law-enforcement show. "Hill

Street Blues. where he played not one but two officers in the precinct.

After an unsuccessful spinoff "Beverly Hills Buntz" and some other missteps, Franz earned a shield with staving power on "Blue."

Franz isn't sure what awaits him once he turns in his hadge he's thinking more acting, some

traveling with wife Joanie and lots of relaxing. "I'm good at doing nothing," he quipped. But he's ready for the show to end, and he's proud of what he called a "phenomenal run."

O. You've been through four partners on the show. Who has heen your favorite?

A. You're never gonna get that out of me! But from Sipowicz, well, he had a real fondness for John Kelly, which was David Caruso's character

> Q. Sipowicz believable in part because of all the little details viewers have become familiar with such as wearing short sleeves with ties, or putting cologne in his armpits. What are quirks that you love? Well, I

with us 24-7.77 like his insistence. how Dennis Franz he's thinking Andy Sipowicz on "NYPD Blue" he's right about little

things. Like, for one example, his pronunciation of the word "prostate." He was certain it was "prostrate." Even when John Irvin tries to correct him, Andy insists he's right. Irvin even leaves a dictionary open to the correct spelling on his desk, and Andy gets upset and still insists it's wrong.

O. And where do you get inspi-



Dennis Franz is retiring the role of Andy Sipowicz on ABC's "NYPD Blue" after 12 seasons. Franz says Sipowicz is the 28th cop role he's played.

ration for those quirks?

A. It began from our writer and creator, David Milch. ... He was my role model for Andy, so on a personal level I got a lot of inspira-tion from him. I began to realize that he was ridding himself of a lot of demons through Andy Sipowicz. I also looked to Bill Clark, our executive producer, who used to be a police officer. Between the two of them, I came up with a lot of Andy

Q. With actress Charlotte Ross off the show, your personal life with on-screen wife Connie is less visible. Is that disappoint-

A. It's a big disappointment. It

really came as a surprise.... We spent so much time getting the audience to accept this oddball rela tionship. We worked very hard at that, and I think we won a large portion of the audience over.

O. Where will this season take Sipowicz? Will we see more trage-

A. I doubt that very seriously. I think Steven and I and the writers do not want to see Sinowicz go out on the slab. We want to end on an upbeat note for him as far as what's ahead

Q. How much did your two previous roles on "Hill Street Blues" help you create the mannerisms of Sipowicz?

A. Not only those two helped. but Andy Sipowicz is cop No. 28 for me. So all 27 in the past have created those layers.

Q. Terry Wrong, who produced "NYPD 24/7," said the officers he interviewed for that documentary [narrated by Franz] all loved Sipowicz. Wrong said several of those officers have met you when visiting Los Angeles. Do vou spend a lot of time with actual police officers around the country?

A. Hardly a week goes by where officers don't come on the set, swapping stories, taking pictures, giving us attaboys. When we film in New York, they're with

#### At the reception, milkshakes

Rapper Nas and R&B songstress Kelis were married Saturday during an intimate The musical couple had been dating for

two years. They were married in an Atlan-ta church and their reception was held in the city's upscale Buckhead neighborhood, publicist Tony Ferguson said Tuesday. "Definitely, if you were there, you were a friend or family member," Ferguson

said. "They really wanted to keep it out of the press. They wanted to make that day for just them." Nas' brother, Jungle, was best man. His

father, jazz musician Olu Dara, also attend-Kelis. 25. is best known for her chart-top-

ping single "Milkshake. Nas, 31, snared the hip-hop world's atten

tion with his 1994 debut album, "Illmatic." He has since released several albums and has appeared in the movies "Belly" and "Ticker."

#### Help for Haitian youth

Dozens of Haitian youths mobbed hip-hop star Wyclef Jean as he visited a slum to inaugurate a program to support education in his impoverished native coun-

The youths on Tues day watched the former Fugees rapper perform an impromptu rendition of his new song "Gonaives" atop a truck in a soccer field in Cite Soleil, a seaside slum outside the capital of Port-au-Prince. They ran after him as he

hopped on a small bicy cle and rode around the

Jean was visiting the L'Athletique d'Haiti Sports Academy, an after-school program in Cite Soleil that provides tutoring and sports training for 650 youths. He inaugurated an initiative to provide

scholarships to help new participants stay in school, a requirement for the afterschool program Free schools are rare in Haiti, and many

families cannot afford tuition.

"What Sammy Sosa has done for the Dominican Republic, that's what I think I can do for Haiti," Jean said, referring to the Dominican-born baseball star who founded a charity for health in education in his coun-

#### Judge rules for Kid Rock A federal appeals court agreed that

trademark and copyright infringement claims brought against singer Kid Rock should be dismissed. The 6th Circuit Court of Appeals in Cin

cinnati upheld Tuesday a lower court ruling that Kid Rock's former business associates waited too long to file a lawsuit.

The Detroit rap-rocker, whose

name is Robert Ritchie first sued Alvin Williams and Earl Blunt of EB-Bran Productions Inc. in May 2001.

He said a 1989 contract that gave EB-Bran sole ownership of the Top Dog trademark and established a partnership

with Kid Rock was a fraud. Williams and Blunt countersued. U.S. District Judge Nancy Edmunds dismissed the countersuit

in February 2003, say-ing that even if EB-Bran did acquire ownership of the trademark in 1989, the company abandoned its interest by not using the trademark for at least a decade.



The appeals court agreed, noting that Kid Rock wrote a letter to Williams and Blunt in December 1990 stating that he didn't intend to work with them on his songs.

Stories and photos from wire services

#### Horoscope

The influence of Capricorn planets can be transforming — not in a caterpillar-turned-butterfly way but more in a rebel-

more in a rebellious-youth-turned-soldier way. There's boot camp involved. Capricom is a tough-love energy for certain, but it works brilliantly to push people, situations and projects to the next level. Your hard work is changing you.

#### TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(January 14). You take your life in a new directions this year, and you have more control than ever over one of them. It's liberating to know you can steer yourself with such precision — an achievement in the next seven weeks proves this to true. Solo endeavors in February make you appreciate partners even more. A Libra or Capricom could steel your heat.

#### ARIES (March 21-April 19). Some activities that should fall under

the category of success don't make you feel successful. Consider that success may mean something different to you than it does to others. Enjoying your creativity is key.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It seems safer to be floating in outer space than to get mixed up in certain relationship turmoil. But don't be fooled. Outer space has its dangers, too, what with the black suns, neutron storms, radiation and the like. Come back to Earth.

#### GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll take an action that has no

other purpose but to make someone crazy. And to you, this falls under the category of "fun." That's the beautiful thing about you — you're a provocateur. Never change.

# CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll learn enough about your fellow man to be glad for your own good fortunes — and your misfor-

good fortunes — and your misfortunes, actually. Your complaints about life are so much more appealing and interesting than anyone else's.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Once again, there's proof that intellect is wasted if one isn't also people smart. A concept explored in the first season of "The Apprentice" applies: There's little correlation between a high IQ and success in lemonade

#### VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're ready to go it alone. Then,

**Holiday Mathis** 

Mathis

#### LIBRA (Sept.

23-Oct. 23). Though it may seem strategic to play the freshman, eager for his upperclassman's counsel, this doesn't serve your long-term purpose. You already

know more than you think you know. Trust that, and dive into your project.

#### SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

Your status in the game isn't determined by a solitary winning move or a single losing move. Taking steps forward and backward is to be expected. Cheer yourself on no matter what, and others will follow

#### SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You define your goals and

21). You deline your goals and targets, but then, when you get going, it doesn't feel like work. It feels like you're just being really silly That's how you know you're on the right path.

#### CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan.

19). Whether negative or positive, you put your attention on things for a reason. Regarding your arch nemesis. It's obvious to the rest of the world that you really care for this person, but you may still be too stubborn to admit it.

#### AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're so over being heavy and

serious. Doting on someone who doesn't particularly deserve it — take your pampered pet, for instance — puts you in a lighthearted, frivolous and exceptionally attractive mood.

#### PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You actually add hours to your life when you put a seal on one of your time drains. Perhaps stop watching

when you put a seal of not or your time drains. Perhaps stop watching a certain TV show, stop talking to a long-winded person or stop going into that store where the lines are so long.

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#### Peanuts









or Worse











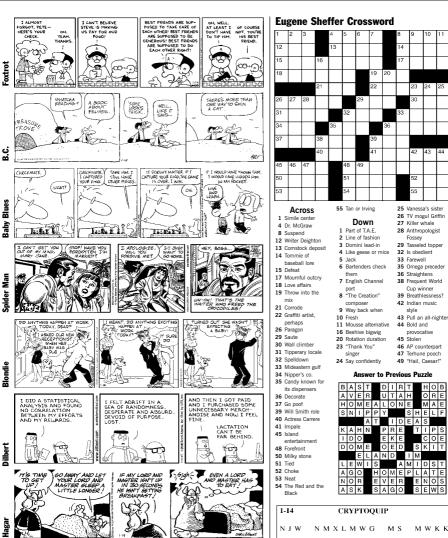
TIME WITH MY DAUGHTER ISN'T SPENT ELIZABETH.

ITS INVESTED.





Friday, January 14, 2005 · STARS AND STRIPES · PAGE 23



ELLEN, WORDS CANNOT DESCRIBE MY FEELINGS FOR YOU...

SO LET ME EXPRESS THEM WITH MUSIC INSTEAD

DAVES

ANNA-ONE,

ANNA BYE-BYE ELLEN

KWEM

#### MWKK LW L ELHWPG X

MXKW

XTSBM X PSSNW. TBM MJWP

JXPUHPU

J W L

BECAUSE THE Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MATTRESS ON HER GUEST BED IS SO FIRM, IT CREATES LOTS OF HARD FEELINGS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals H

I'm getting my degree this year, Forty years

WHEN THE RETIREE RETURNED TO COLLEGE, HE WAS

Now arrange the circled letters to

(Answers tomorrow)

PLACED IN THE-

form the surprise answer, as

# Man's new lifestyle not wife's fault JUMBL

Dear Abby: I am ashamed to admit this, but after 20 years of marriage, my husband told me that he was meant to have a woman's body. My self-confi-dence is destroyed. Our children are suffering in every aspect of their lives. I cannot grasp my husband's revelation, as I Dear Abby

love him still. I also accept that this is something I cannot change, but ever since we separated, the men I have dated have all

turned out to be gay.
Is it me? Am I cursed? - Devastated in Detroit Dear Devastated: This has nothing to do with you, and there are no curses involved. Your husband was born the wrong gender, and it's nobody's

Counseling can help you come

to grips with this issue Since your husband is considering gender reassignment, it follows that he is seeing a therapist.

You need help, too. I recommend that you ask his therapist to refer you to a psy-chologist or psychiatrist.

Dear Abby: I am in college, and four out of five of my roommates smoke. About two-thirds of my friends are smokers, too They all know it's bad for them.

but it is hard to quit. I see cigarette packs and lighters lying around and I am ver tempted to start smoking. I don't know why, because I know it's unhealthy. I have never smoked but I'm afraid that I'll start. How can

I make the right move? Nail-Biting in Rochester, N.Y. Dear Nail-Biting

Making "the right decision" will be easier if you remove yourself from temptation. Request a change of living quarters to accommodations that are strictly nonsmoking, because research has proven that secondhand smoke can make you sick.

Dear Abby: I am 16 and the

mother of a beautiful little boy His father is no longer in the

There is a man in my life who loves my son and me very much. I'll call him Joe. Joe and I have been together for eight incredible months and he recently proposed to me.

One week later, I caught him cheating. Joe told me how sorry he was and begged me to give him another chance. I agreed.

But, Abby, things don't seem the same anymore. It feels like I'm the only one trying in this relationship. Was I wrong to give him a second chance?

- Confused in Reno, Nev. Dear Confused: Yes. A man who is sincerely in love, and mature enough for marriage and fatherhood, does not cheat a week after he proposes. You are only 16. It's time to step back and consider how you plan to

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at http://www.uexpress.com/dearabby Universal Press Syndicate

raise vour son.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

one letter to each square. to form four ordinary words UROCC

SBELS SNULES

ARIVED

suggested by the above cartoon.

AMOEBA CHROME CUBIC What the barber did on vacation -Answer "COMBED" THE BEACH

# **Foo sensitive to fiancee's quip**

Dear Annie: My fiancee, "Catherine," has told me that I am overly sensitive. As you might expect, I disagree with

her, so I am asking you. Catherine is friends with "John and Geraldine," whose company I do not particularly care to keep. This couple was married two years ago -immediately after John divorced his first wife. Prior to pursuing Geraldine however. John expressed a strong interest in Catherine. This doesn't surprise me, as Catherine

very attractive woman What bothers me is that over dinner one recent evening, Catherine lamented about having not married John herself, so that she could have traveled with him to Hawaii, Cancun, etc., as John and Geraldine have done since their wedding.

Am I being overly sensitive to object to Catherine's continued relationship with John?

- Dazed and Confused Dear Dazed: Sorry to tell you



over-sensitive on this issue. Catherine is not carrying a torch for John. She is carrying one for Hawaii. She envies the traveling that John and his wife have been able to at ford. We will say, however, that she expressed it rather insensitively, considering that you take these things to heart.

Tell her, gently, that it hurts when she makes it sound as if she would rather be engaged to John instead of you. Then let her make it up to you.

Dear Annie: Our office staff often hosts meetings for small groups in our conference room This past week, we were the hosts for a meeting, and a young woman who was attending offered to bring refreshments for the participants. We were very grateful to her, as we usually provide only coffee and water

The young woman in question

brought cookies, and after the meeting, she took the remaining cookies with her. Is this appropriate behavior, or should she have left the cookies for the hosts Some of our staff has likened this to bringing a bottle of wine to a

dinner party and asking that the unused portion be returned to Another group feels she is entitled to the leftover cookies since she brought them. What do

- Wondering in Wyoming Dear Wondering: This was not a social event, like a dinner party. She was bringing the cookies for the participants. Although it would have been nice for her to share the extra calories with your office staff, she no doubt assumed she had to clean up after the meeting and took the cookies with her. No faux pas intended.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, Iongtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox/ecomcast.net or write to: Annie's Mailbox, comcast.net or write to: Annie's Mailbox, Coreators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd, Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

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#### **Family Circus**



"If you think this is loud, wait till you hear him when I take him OUT of the tub!"

# GRAFFIT TOF







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	SATURDAY	DUE NOON WEDNESDAY
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# Agassi might be latest Aussie withdrawal

#### Hip injury could force American to join growing list of no-shows

BY JOHN PYE

The Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Andre Agassi might be forced to join the growing list of high-profile absentees from the Australian Open after injuring his hip in an exhibition tournament.

"It's a mighty big spectrum of possibilities right now," said Agassi, a four-time Australian Open champion, who was trailing Andy Roddick 6-5 in a Kooyong Classic match when he retired Thursday.

Agassi said he felt tightness in the muscle at the front of his right hip and would have an MRI to determine the damage.

"The good news is that it didn't just tear, it was tightening up and that can be your body protecting itself, which is hopefully more of the issue," Agassi said. "That wasn't comfortable out there at all, what I was feeling. I have to wait and see what I'm dealing with—it's a pretty scary feeling out there when something doesn't feel right and is getting worse.

"It's very disappointing and I'll have to do my best to deal with it."

Roddick will face the winner of Friday's semifinal between top-ranked Roger Federer and Tim Henman.

In playoffs for fifth-eighth places on Thursday, defending champion David Nalbandian beat fellow Argentine Gaston Gaudio 6-1, 6-3, and Olympic gold medalist Nicolas Massu defeated Ivan Liubicic 6-4, 6-4.



Andre Agassi, above, said he felt tightness in the muscle at the front of his right hip, forcing him to leave a match against Andy Roddick late in the first set on Thursday.

While Agassi's attendance in the Australian Open is only in doubt, former Wimbledon and U.S. Open finalist Mark Philippoussis pulled out of it because of an adductor muscle problem that forced him out of the prepert Homman Cur.

The Australian Open women's draw has also been depleted by injuries.

Defending champion Justine Henin-Hardenne pulled out last week because a knee problem and her fellow Belgian Kim Clijsters was ruled out with persistent wrist pain. Jennifer Capriati, a two-time winner withdrew Wednesday be-

cause of a recurring right shoulder injury.

Top-seeded Lindsay Davenport had to forfeit her quarterfinal match against Australia's Samantha Stosur in the Sydney International on Thursday due to bronchitis, I days after she withdrew from the Hopman Cup to give her injured knee extra time to heal.

Agassi hasn't ruled himself out.

"I was not counting on this being the end of the day for me," he said. "Maybe in a few days I'll have a much better sense of

what my hopes will be."

On Wednesday, the 34-year-old Agassi said he felt he was in top physical condition for the Open and was hoping "to have some magical things happen."

He said he'd trimmed down to about 163 pounds from about 176 after concentrating on fitness instead of tennis technique during the offseason.

Despite all the conditioning, Agassi said he first felt pain in his hip midway through the first set, and briefly approached the umpire's chair in the 10th game.

"It got to a point where it wasn't doing anybody any good for me to stay out there. It was a difficult decision, but a clear one," Agassi said. "I have been through it before — enough to know that it was only getting worse."



Defending champion Justine Henin-Hardenne, left, Mark Philippoussis, below, Jennifer Capriati and Kim Clijsters will not play in the Australian Open.



Agassi said it was not a recurrence of the hip injury that forced him to miss Wimbledon last year, saying it was a joint rather than a muscle injury.

Agassi won at Kooyong in 2000, 2001 and 2003, and each of those years went on to win the Australian Open. An injury in the annual exhibition event cost him a chance to win three consecutive Australian titles in 2002, when he injured his wrist playing Pete Sampras in the Kooyong final.

That year, he withdrew on the opening day at Melbourne Park.

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#### AFN TV & Radio

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—Golf: Sony Open, first round (did).
AFN-Sports, 12:30 p.m.—College basket-AFN-Sports, 12:30 p.m.—College basket-AFN-Sports, 2:30 p.m.—College basketball: UCLA af AFN-Sports, 7:30 p.m.—College basketball: UCLA af AFN-Sports, 7:30 p.m.—College basketball: Oregon St. at Washington St. (did).

#### Saturday

AFN-Sports, 1 a.m.—Golf: Sony Open, secnd round. AFN-Pacific, 2 a.m.—NBA: Orlando at De-AFN-Atlantic, 2 a.m.—NBA: Dallas at San Antonio. AFN-Sports, 4:30 a.m.—NBA: Minnesota at Denver. AFN-Radio, 4:30 a.m.—NBA: Miami at L.A. Clippers, AFN-Sports, 1:30 p.m.—NBA: Minnesota at

APN-Apports, 130 p.m.—Nax: Minnesota APN-Atlantic, 7 p.m.—College basketball: APN-Padfari, 7 p.m.—College basketball: APN-Padfari, 7 p.m.—College basketball: North Carolina at Wake Forest: APN-Sports, 730 p.m.—College basketball: APN-Sports, 730 p.m.—College basketball: APN-Atlantic, Padfic and Radio, 10:30 p.m.—NIT: APC Divisional playoff game, N.Y. Jest at Pittistory.

All times are Central European Time; dld in-dicated delayed broadcast. All listings are subject to change. Visit www.myafn.net for more information.

#### College basketball

#### AP Men's Top 25 fared

Wednesday

1. Illinois (17-0) beat Penn State 90-54.
Next: at Northwestern, Saturday.
2. Kansas (12-0) beat lowa State 71-66.
Next: at Colorado, Saturday.
3. North Carolina (14-1) beat No. 8 Georgia Tech 91-95. Next: at No. 4 Wake Forest, Satur-

3. North Carolina (14-1) beet No. 5 Georgia Cherch 2-00, Not. 1 No. 4 Wase Forest, Satur-Carolina (14-1) did not play, Nest. 3. Wase Forest (14-1) did not play, Nest. 5. Duke (11-0) did not play, Nest. 2 Not. 5. Duke (11-0) did not play, Nest. 2 Not. 9. Not. 1 Not. 1

"15. Michigan State (10-2) did not play, west at Wisconsin, Sunday, Play, Next vs. Loyola Marymount, Thursday, 17. Arrzona (12-3) did not play, Next vs. Loyola Marymount, Thursday, 18. Cincinnati (14-1) beat East Carolina No. 18 Cincinnati, Saturday, No. 18 Cincinnati, Saturday, No. 18 Cincinnati, Saturday, 19. Pittsburgh (11-2) did not play, Next vs. 21. George Washington (11-2) beat 51. Carolina 21. George Washington (11-2) beat 22. George Washington (11-2) beat 23. George Washington (11-2) beat 24. Carolina 25. Next vs. Massachusetts.

Bollisting to 65-39. Next: v.S. massacriusetts, 22. Marquette (13-1) did not play. Next: at Memphis, Thursday. 23. Alabama (13-3) did not play. Next: vs. No. 11 Mississippi State, Tuesday. No. 11 Mississippi State, Tuesday. State of the Mississippi State, Tuesday. 25. Oklahoma (12-2) did not play. Next: at Baylor, Saturday.

Wednesday's men's scores EAST Albany, N.Y. 68, Binghamton 62 Allegheny 92, Hiram 91 American U. 66, Navy 60 Arcadia 68, Chestnut Hill 63 Baruch 80, York, N.Y. 74 Finding, Pa. Se, Bridger, Se, Sell, 1007, Hawen 59 Killing, Pa. 70, Lycoming 58 Lebanon Valley & J. Moravian 66 Lebanon Valley & J. Moravian 67 Montclair S. 77, College of N. L. 56 Mon

Rochester 77, Geneseo St. 60 Rochester Tech 84, Roberts Wesleyan 74 Rowan 81, Richard Stockton 49 Saint Joseph's 59, Massachusetts 52 Shippensburg 61, Clarlon 57 St. John Fisher 76, Keuka 45 Steven S Tech 80, N.Y. Maritime 75 Temple 77, Fordham 45 Memout 76, Stock 19 Back 75 Memout 76, Stock 19 Back 75 Memout 76, Stock 19 Back 75 Memout 76, Stock 19 Back 75

Sevent Fort 88, N.Y. Martinen 75
Vermont 78, Story Rock 59
West Chester 98, Millersville 66
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We Mart Mill 27, Indication on the Mart Mill 27, Indication on the Mart Mill 27, Indication on the Mart Mill 27, Indication of the M

Adrian 122, Tri-State 116 Akron 75, Buffalo 59 Alblon 68, Hope 44 Augsburg 76, Concordia, Moor. 73 Augustana, Ill. 80, North Park 58 Benedictine, Ill. 79, Clarke 75 Blackburn 61, Webster 52 Blackburn 61, Webster 52 Bowling Green 79, E. Michigan 63 Calvin 89, Kalamazoo 56 Bowling Creen 79. E. Michigana G. Calvin Bi, Kalansabos 50. Cardinal Strick Bi, Juddon G. Cardinal Strick Bi, Bidana Tech 87. Cornestone IBS, Indiana Tech 87. Cornestone IBS, Indiana Tech 87. Cornestone IBS, Illustra 18. Dominical III. El. Leura a 55. Cornestone IBS, Illustra 18. Leura 18. Cornestone IBS, Illustra 18. Leura 18. Cornestiva IBS, Illustra 18. Leura 18. Cornestiva IBS, Illustra 18. Leura 18 North Certral 82, Wheaton, III. 62 Onlo Weslyn 82, Oberlin 88 65 Pittsbury 51. 84, Emporia S1. 69 Principia 81, Mac Murray 79 Principia 81, Mac Murray 79 Silmois 69, Verswille 57 Silmois 69, Verswille 57 Silmois 69, Verswille 57 St. Mary's Minn. 83, Hamilin 72 St. Mary's Minn. 84 St. Mary's Minn. 85 St. Mary's Toledo 77, Ball St. 67
Whichigan 75, Kent St. 62
Washburn 86, NW Missouri St. 82
Wichita St. 88, Bradley 73
Wishland St. 88, Bradley 73
Wis. Lutheran 83, Lakeland 69
Wis. Lutheran 83, Lakeland 69
Wis. Hilwatkee 65, Youngstown St. 42
Wis.-Platteville 70, Wist.-1a Crosse 62
Wooster 92, Kenyon 49
Xavier 73, Duquesne 52
Xavier 73, Duquesne 52
SOUTHWEST

Texas A&M 74, Texas 63 Texas St. 72, Nicholls St. 58 FAR WEST Nebraska 68, Colorado 61 UTEP 83, Nevada 80, OT Westmont 94, Vanguard 72 TANK MCNAMARA

#### AP Women's Top 25 fared

Wednesday

1. Duke (15-1) did not play. Next: at Virginia, Fridav. ia, Friday.

2. Baylor (12-2) lost to Nebraska 103-99 in 3OT. Next: vs. Oklahoma, Sunday.

3. LSU (14-1) did not play. Next: at Florida, This day, see your hand and play. Next: vs. the day see (11-2) did not play. Next: vs. seorgetown, Thursday, so the this close of this close of the this close of this close of this close of the this close of the this close of the this close of th

6. Scamford (13-2) flori not play, Next vs. Gar-fornia, Thursd (13-3) lost to No. 15 Connect-leut (7-50. Next vs. No. 20 Purdue, Sunday, 8. Tennessee (10-3) did not play, Next vs. Arkansas, Thursday, 9. Michigan State (13-2) did not play, Next vs. Wisconsin, Thursday, 9. North Carolina (12-2) did not play, Next at North Carolina State, Friday, 11. Mannesota (13-2) did not play, Next: at 11. Mannesota (13-2) did not play, Next: at

an Tell Minescott (127) did nof play, Next: at 10, 20 Purder, Thursday, No. 12 Purder, Thursday, No. 12 Purder, 12 Pursa (8-5) lest S. Saturday, 13 Texas Tech (127) beat No. 12 Texas 7-64. Next: at Colorado, Saturday, 13 Manyland (1172) did not play, Next: at Manyland (1172) did not play, Next: at 16. Connecticut (9-4) beat No. 7 Notre Dame 67-30 Next: tut, 94). Planova, Saturday, 14 Next: at 16. Connecticut (9-4) beat No. 7 Notre Dame 67-30 Next: tut, 94). Planova, Saturday, 14 Neburn, Thursday, 20 did not play, Next: at Auburn, Thursday, 20 did not play, Next: at 112 Next: 20 did not play,

17. vanderbilt (12-2) did not play. Next: at Auburn, Thursday. 18. Georgia (13-4) did not play. Next: at Kentucky, Thursday. 19. UCLA (10-4) did not play. Next: vs. Arizo-na State, Friday.

18. UCA (U-4) on not pay, Next: vs. Artze-20. Purdue (U-4) dig not play, Next: vs. No. 11 Minnesota, Thursday, 12. Departue (U-4) play, Next: at No. 5 olio State, Thursday, 22. Departue (U-3) did not play, Next: vs. Vs. Next: vs. Next: vs. Next: vs. Next: vs. Vs. Next: vs. N

#### Wednesday's women's scores

Wednesday's Wollieli's SC EAST Allegheny 68, Oberlin 59 Alvernia 62, Cabrini 69, 20T Baruch 76, York, N.Y. 48 Bethany, W.Y. 48 Bethany, W.Y. 47 Bioghamton 57, Albany, N.Y. 47 Biostan College 77, Villanova 63 Brooklyn 53, binh 1ay 40 Both 19, 100 Bethal 19, 100 Buichell of Cologanics of COV St. Media (1975). Cov. COV 59, Media (1975). Cov. St. St. Stepen (1975). Collifornia Pa. 57, Stipper (1976). Collifornia Pa. 57, Foundation Collifornia Pa. 57, Stipper (1976). Collifornia Pa. 57, Vol. 57, Stipper (1976). Collifornia Pa. 57, Stipper (19 Richard Stockton bs, Rowan by Rosemont 73, Immaculata G Scannon 67, Wilkes S Scannon 67, Wilkes S Staten Island 79, MYCCT 51 Syracuse 72, Providence 51 Vermont 85, Stony Brook 75 WUT Tech 59, Virginia St. 57 West Chester 80, Millersville 61 Widener 49, Abright 41 Yale 46, Delaware St. 45 SOUTH

Catawba 78, Newberry 48
Chowan 63, N.C. Wesleyan 62
Clayton St. 77, Armstrong Atlantic 63
Eckerd 75, St. Leo 54
Ferrum 86, Peace 56
Florida Southern 69, Rollins 57 Florida Southern 69, Rollins 57 Georgia College 72, Kennesaw 58 Greensboro 49, Methodist 48 Mars Hill 74, Tusculum 67 Nova Southeastern 55, Barry 54 S.C.-Aliken 70, N.C.-Pembroke 48 S.C.-Upstate 62, Francis Marion 49 SE Louislana 68, Sam Houston 51, 61 Tampa 68, Florida Tech 54

Tampa 66, Florida Tech 54
Wingate 71, Presbyterian 66
MIDWEST
Baldwin-Wallace 62, John Carroll 50
Benedictine,Ill. 68, Clarke 52
Bethel, Minn. 73, St. Thomas, Minn. 69

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Wis-Wiltewater 69, Wis-Eau Claire 66 Wittenberg 64, Kenyon 35 Youngstown St. 62, Loyola of Chicago 55 SOUTHWEST Texas St. 66, Nicholls St. 65 Texas Tech 79, Texas 62 FAR WEST Montana St. 881111gps 68, Montana Tech 39

Medibank International

Tennis

Thursday

At The Sydney, Interests of Tennis Centre Sydney, Australia: Transis Centre Sydney, Australia: WTA, \$55,500 Surface, Australia: WTA, \$55,500 Surface, Starf-Outdoor Surface, Starf-Outdoor Surface, Starf-Outdoor Surface, Surface,

Western Western Western Western Western Demokrate (D. Russis, def. Patty Peru Studi. China. def. Nadia Petrova G. Adia ako Maria Mendra Mendra

(5). Igor Andreev and Nikolay Davydenko, Rus-sla, def. Tomas Berdych and Radek Stepanek, Czech Republic, 2-1, retired. Arnaud Clement and Michael Llodra, France, def. Wayne Black and Kevin Ullyett (4), Zimbabwe, 6-3, 6-4.

(4), Zimbabwe, 6-3, 6-4.

Women
Semfinals
Elena Dementleva, Russia, and Al Sugily
ma (3), Japan, def. Conchita Martinez ar
Virginia Ruano Pascual (2), Spain, 6-3, 6-4,
Biyanne Stewart and Samartha Stosu
Australia, def. Maria Kirlienko, Russia, ar
Amastasilya Yakimova, Belarns, walkover.

#### **Kooyong Classic**

Thursday
At Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club
Melbourne, Australia
Purse: Exhibition
Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Semifinals

Semifinals
Andy Roddick, United States, def. Andre
Agassi, United States, 6-5, retired.
Relegation
David Nalbandian, Argentina, def. Gaston
Gaudio, Argentina, 6-3, 6-1.

MURAWOS

Nicolas Massu, Chile, def. Ivan Ljubicic, Croatia, 6-4. 6-4

#### Heineken Open

Thursday At ASB Bank Tennis Centr

AL ASS Entervally Centre
Auckland New Yealand
Purse: \$426,000 (intl. series)
Surface (hard-butdoor
Quatrelinals
Olivier Rochus, Belgium, def. Guillermo
Coria (1), Argentina, 6-4, 6-2ille, def. Robby
Fernando Guractez (5), 6-2ille, def. Robby
Juan Ignacio Chela (6), Agentina, def. Potito Starace, Ruly, 6-1, 7-6 (5).
Jan Nemych, Czech Repoblic, def. Jose Aca3828, Argentina, 6-4, 7-5.

#### Moorilla International

At The Domain Tennis Centre
Hobert, Australia
Purse: \$11,000 (Tier V)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Singles
Semifinals
Ahea, China, def. Li Na, China, 3-6, 6-4,

6-0. Gisela Dulko (2), Argentina, def. Iveta Be-nesova (3), Czech Republic, 7-5, 6-2.

#### Canberra Women's Classic

Thursday At The National Sports Club Canberra, Australia Purse: \$110,000 (Tier V) Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Surface: Hard-Outdoor Singles Melinda czink Quarterfinals Melinda czink Quarterfinals Melinda czink Lurgary, def. Marlene We-lindasy Lee-Waters, United States, def. Anca Barna, Germany, 6-4, 6-2 Ana Ivanovic, Serbia-Montenegro, def. Marion Bartoli (d), France, e. 1, 2-0, Fettred. Yuliana Fedix, Ukraine, def. Silvia Farina Elia (1), Raly, 6-2, 6-4.

#### Deals

#### Wednesday's transactions BASEBALL U.S. BASEBALL FEDERATION - Named Mark

S. BASEBAL FEDBATION-Named Mart.
Prior, Nation Street, Chris Lubanski and Bridget Verlemen on the Usabaski and Bridget Verlemen on the Usabaski Delay Street Street, Chris Lubanski Delay Street, Chris Lubanski Delay Street, Chris Language, Chris Language,

ract of Paul Seiner, executions and Eco, through 2005.

American League

BOSTON RED SOX—Agreed to terms with NF Ramon Vazquez on a one-year contract.

OAKLAND ATHLETICS—Agreed to terms with RHP Kelichi Yabu on a one-year con-

act. SEATTLE MARINERS—Agreed to te with RHP Gil Meche on a one-year contract.

TAMPA BAY DEVIL RAYS—Agreed to terms
with LHP Mark Guthria on a minor league

TORONTO BLUE JAYS—Acquired INF Shea

National League
ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS—Agreed to
erms with LHP Shawn Estes on a one-year contract.
FLORIDA MARLINS—Agreed to terms with
C Paul LoDuca on a three-year contract.
HOUSTON ASTROS—Agreed to terms with
RHP Turk Wendell on a minor league con-

ract.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES—Agreed to terms with RHP Brian Meadows on a one-year con-

Tract.
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS—Agreed to terms with RHP Toby Borland, RHP Chris Gissell, RHP Bob File, INF Mike Bell, INF Wilton Guerrero, INF Abraham Nunez, OF Raul Gonzalez and OF Brandon Berger on minor league contracts

SAN DIEGO PADRES—Agreed to terms with SAN DIEGO PADRES—Agreed to terms with LHP Chris Hammond on a one-year contract. BASKETBALL NATIONAL BASKETBALL WASHINGTON WIZARDS—Activated FEAT TO make The Christopher Christopher S

iams.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

DETROIT LIONS—Signed LB Steve Baggs
and WR Got Baggs.

Martinez and LB Scott Genord to NFL Europe.

SOCER

Major League Soccer

LOS ANGELES GALAXY—Traded F Alejan-

ANGELES GALAXY—Traded F Alejan-dro Moreno, D Chris Aloisi and the sixth se-lection in the first-round of the 2005 draft to San Jose for D Todd Dunivant, G Steve Cro-nin and the first selection in the first-round of the 2005 draft of the 2005 draft.

COLLEGE

LSU—Agreed to terms with Les Miles, foot-

COLLEGE

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SOUTH FLORIDA—Announced OL Danny Muy and WR Cedric Hill will transfer to the

Lamar 87, McNeese St. 81 Northwestern St. 69, Texas-Arlington 58 TCU 73, Tulane 62 Texas A&M 74, Texas 63



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HIGHLIGHTHS THE PLANE HAS
LIFESTYLE OF NEA SUPERSTARS.
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"NEW FOR 2005! PACERZ-PISTONZ BARBED-WRED-CAGE DEATH-CHALLENGE REMATCH! 



# **A&M** shows Acie in the hole, upsets Texas

### Big 12 win is sophomore Law's first

The Associated Press

Texas A&M wasn't getting any national recognition for its 11-0 start and a close loss to Kansas. After a 74-63 upset of No. 10 Texas on

Wednesday night, it's going to be tough to ignore the Aggies.

"I think we've been ahead of schedule a

"I trimk we've been anead or schedule a little bit," said coach Billy Gillispie, who moved over from Texas-El Paso in March. The Aggies' nonconference wins were

Men's Top 25 roundup over the likes of Prairie
View A&M, Texas-Permian Basin and Trinity,
a Division III school.

a Division III school.

The 65-60 loss at No.
2 Kansas last week raised some interest.

The win over Texas that ended an 18-eame

Big 12 losing streak opened a lot of eyes.
"It's about having the right guys,"
Gillispie said, smiling. "It's no magic formula. The story is not about me . . . it's
about those guys in the white jerseys. The
sky's the limit on what you can achieve."

The start is the best at Texas A&M since 1959-60, and no coach in school history has had a better start than Gillispie.

"We know where we are in the landscape of college basketball," he said. "We have 14 more Big 12 games and there's not one that you can circle that you know you're going to win."

Acie Law had 24 points and six assists and freshman Joseph Jones added 13 points and 10 rebounds for the Aggies (12-1, 1-1), who were 7-21 last season and finished last in the Big 12 for the third time in four years.

"He's been doing great," Gillispie said of Law. "Acie was fantastic. He was composed and didn't get out of control and ran our offense."

Before a school-record crowd of 12,811, A&M ended the Longhorns' 10-game winning streak at College Station and improved its record in Reed Arena this season to 12-0.

"It feels real good to get the first Big 12 victory," said Law, a sophomore point guard. "A Top 10 team comes in . . . that's a perfect opportunity to show everyone what we can do."

P.J. Tucker led the Longhorns (12-3, 1-1) with 18 points and eight rebounds, and freshman LaMarcus Aldridge added 12 points and eight rebounds.

The Aggies' lead reached 21 points early in the second half. A&M's aggressive pressure defense —

ranked No. 1 nationally in field goal percentage — forced the Longhorns into dozens of off-balance jumpers and threes from way behind the arc.

Texas made one of its first 12 shots and finished 20-for-62 (32 percent). It was the Longhorns' worst shooting effort of the sea-

"They put some pressure on us and were digging back in there," Texas coach Rick Barnes said, "and when that happens, you have to make some shots. We didn't do a particularly great job of that."

No. 1 Illinois 90, Penn St. 64: Luther Head and Dee Brown each made five of the Illini's record 15 three-pointers as they tied the school record with their 17th consecutive victory.

Head had 19 points and Brown added 15 for Illinois (17-0, 3-0 Big Ten), which matched the winning streak of the 1988-89 team, the Illini's last to reach the Final

Geary Claxton had 16 points for the visiting Nittany Lions (6-10, 0-3), who lost their fourth straight.

No. 2 Kansas 71, lowa St. 66: Wayne Simien returned after a four-game absence and had 13 points, nine rebounds and several big plays in 37 minutes to lead the Jayhawks (12-0, 2-0 Big 12).

The senior forward, a preseason All-America, underwent surgery on his left thumb on Dec. 20. Keith Langford, who suffered a concussion in the final minutes of Sunday's win at Kentucky, had 18 points.

"It feels good having him back because that's the man that helps us out on the boards, scores some points for us, makes the game a lot easier for everybody else," said Langford, who also had five assists.

Curtis Stinson had 18 points for the Cyclones (8-5, 0-2), who lost for just the second time in 27 home games under coach Wayne Morgan.

No. 9 Kentucky 69, Vanderbilt 54:

Freshman guard Rajon Rondo scored a career-high 18 points for the Wildcats (11-2, 2-0 Southeastern Conference), who remained perfect in 28 games against Vanderbilt at Rupp Arena, dating to the 1976-77 season.

Corey Smith had 16 points for the Commodores (11-5, 2-1), who had a seven-game winning streak snapped.

Tennessee 64, No. 11 Mississippi St. 63: Scooter McFadgon scored 14 points and the Volunteers (9-6, 2-1 Southeastern Conference) snapped the nation's longest year withing streak at 16 games

road winning streak at 16 games. Lawrence Roberts had 22 points and 13 rebounds for the Bulldogs (14-3, 2-1), who had won eight straight overall and hadn't

had won eight straight overall and hadn't lost on the road since a loss at Tennessee in March 2003.

Mississippi State, which trailed by 16 at

halftime, had several chances at the end, including a jumper by Roberts at the buzzer. No. 18 Cincinnati 84, East Carolina 78:

No. 18 Cincinnati 84, East Carolina 78: Jason Maxiell scored 24 points for the visiting Bearcats (14-1, 3-0 Conference USA),



Texas A&M guard Acie Law IV (1) goes to the basket against Texas forward LaMarcus Aldridge (23) in the second half of the Aggies 74-63 win Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2005.

who have won three straight since losing to top-ranked Illinois.

Corey Rouse had 21 points and 13 re-

bounds for the Pirates (5-10, 0-3), who fell to 0-7 all-time against Cincinnati.

No. 21 George Washington 85, St. his Bonaventure 59: Pops Mensah-Bonsu si

scored 14 points to lead six players in double figures for the Colonials (11-2, 3-0 Atlantic 10). Wade Dunston scored a career-high 25

water Juniston score a career-nigh 25 points for the Bonnies (1-13, 0-3), who are off to the worst start in school history and have lost 25 of their last 27, including all six at home this season.

# No. 8 Georgia Tech can't slow down No. 3 North Carolina

BY KEITH PARSONS
The Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Rashad McCants enjoys perform-

ing for the home crowd.

He gave the North Carolina fans plenty to cheer about

fans plenty to cheer about Wednesday night, and surprisingly, most of it came on defense. Known primarily as a scorer, McCants had a career-high four

McCants had a career-high four blocks, and Jawad Williams led a balanced attack with 18 points to help the third-ranked Tar Heels beat No. 8 Georgia Tech 91-69.

McCants, who joined five team-

mates in double figures with 12 points, had three of his rejections in the first half.
"We want to set the tone of the

game with our defense," McCants said.

He did that early, leaping high to block Will Bynum's first shot of the game. Later, with the game all but decided, the 6-foot-4 Mc-Cants stuffed a dunk by 6-9 Theodis Tarver, then celebrated by

hopping across midcourt.
"I think it was more of just an instinct play." McCants said. "I don't like to let guys score on me, especially going to the goal like that." and Sean May added 12 for North Carolina (14-1, 3-0 Atlantic Coast Conference), which has won 14 straight since an opening loss to Santa Clara. Point guard Raymond Felton was suspended for that game because he played in a non-sanctioned summer league game, and with him on the court, the Tar Heels have had few chal-

"I feel like I'm the leader of the team," Felton said. "I feel like I'm the one that gets everybody going. I'm the floor general."

The Yellow Jackets (11-3, 2-1)

certainly didn't provide much of a test. Playing without injured guard B.J. Elder for the third straight game, Georgia Tech led only at 1-0, quickly fell behind and never recovered. Jarrett Jack had 24 points and Luke Schenscher finished with 13.

"They're an outstanding team, maybe the best team in the country," Yellow Jackets coach Paul Hewitt said. "But we had some guys not play as well as they're capable of playing. It's one of those

With one matchup against a Top 10 opponent out of the way. North Carolina can turn its attention to Saturday's game at No. 4 Wake Forest. It will be the first meeting ever with both teams in the top five.

"I'm going to enjoy this one," Tar Heels coach Roy Williams said. "Georgia Tech is a big-time freakin' team."

Felton and the other starters had plenty of help from the bench in this one, led by Marvin Williams. In the first half, the Tar Heels' reserves outscored their counterparts 21-0, and it was much the same after the break until both coaches cleared the

# **Brady** pleased to be out of spotlight

BY HOWARD ULMAN The Associated Press

FOXBORO, Mass. - Tom Brady already has been photo-graphed with Pope John Paul II. Super Bowl trophy and Bridget Moynahan, his actress girlfriend.

So he doesn't feel slighted to be spending a week in the shadows of Peyton Manning's great season.

"I have had way too much attention over the last three years to ever think that," he said. "I mean, no way. No way.

It still takes a lot to put the two-time Super Bowl MVP in the background, but no one has had a season like Manning's - an NFL-record 49 touchdown passes, just 10 interceptions and the best passer rating, 121.1, in league history.

Brady's numbers weren't nearly as impressive - 28 scoring sses, 14 interceptions and the fifth-best passer rating in the AFC. But he did lead the Patriots to a 14-2 record. The Colts were 13-2 behind Manning before he sat out most of the last game, a loss to Denver.

But a week later, Manning threw four touchdown passes in a 49-24 wild-card win over the

"It's not tennis. It's not an individual sport," Patriots tight end Christian Fauria said. "We have a lot of guys that contribute so if they want to call out one person that's fine, but the majority of the time most of us don't really care. "We only care about one thing,

and that's winning. Brady and the Patriots have

done plenty of that the past four seasons. He's made 62 consecutive regular-season starts, winning 48. He's also 6-0 as a playoff



New England quarterback and two-time Super Bowl MVP Tom Brady (above), who is 5-0 lifetime against Indianapolis, has been happy to concede the media spotlight to Peyton Manning this week.



10:30 p.m. Sunday AFN-A, AFN-P, AFN Radio Game time is Central Europe starter and 5-0 against the Colts,

including a win in Foyboro in last year's AFC championship game. In that game, he outplayed Man-

ning, who threw four intercep-tions. In this season's opening 27-24 win over the Colts. Brady again had the edge, throwing for three touchdowns and 335 yards. while Manning threw for two touchdowns and 256 yards.

"He just gets the job done again and again," Patriots strong safety Rodney Harrison said. "It's not about getting all the attention.'

In fact, Brady is among Manning's many admirers.

"He's the leader of that team," Brady said. "It seems like the efficiency of that offense is better

than it's ever been in the history of the league and that's shown in how many games they've won." Brady doesn't see Sunday's game as a matchup with Man-

ning, although that will be crucial to the outcome "Usually when you play in play-

off games, the quarterback who plays better usually does win the game," Brady said, "When you play a guy like Peyton, you don't want to give him the ball too much, any more than he should have it, because they're probably going to go down and score some

Manning has a deeper group of targets for his passes, led by wide receivers Marvin Harrison, Reggie Wayne and Brandon Stokley who each had more than 1,000 yards receiving. David Givens and David Patten were the only Patriots with more than 500 yards

receiving. Brady also must be especially because the Colts lead

the NFL in turnover differential. "Obviously, you don't want to get in the habit of turning the ball over versus this team," he said.

That doesn't mean the Patriots will play more conservatively than usual to avoid mistakes that can lead to Indianapolis points

"The reasons why we've been successful around here is because we've played our style," Brady said

So has Indianapolis, which features a more wide-open attack, long gains and a quarterback who has commanded the spotlight all season while Brady piled up wins

"I don't think it bothers him whatsoever," Fauria said. "Those accolades are great, but the most important thing is get to the final show. I think if you get that on your résumé, it holds as much water as any other thing you can get during the season."

### Pennington returns to practice for Jets

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. - Jets quarterback Chad Pennington re turned to practice Thursday, one



day after sitting out with a stom ach virus Pennington did light drills

and stretching during the 15 minutes practice is open to reporters, smiling and laughing with his teammates, just days before the Jets' playoff game Saturday at Pittsburgh.

But Quincy Carter was still ab sent after leaving the team to be with his ill mother in Georgia. No. 3 quarterback Brooks Bollinger

goes into the game as the backup. Defensive end John Abraham, listed as questionable with a sprained right knee, also practiced. But The Star-Ledger of Newark cited an unnamed team official as saying the three-time Pro Bowler would not play Saturday. The team had said his availability would be a game-time decision.

In other Jets news, linebacker Eric Barton was fined \$7,500 by the NFL for his hit on Drew Brees during last weekend's playoff game at San Diego. Barton said Thursday he plans to appeal the

#### Source: Packers' Sherman will be stripped of GM's duties

MILWAUKEE - Packers President Bob Harlan plans to strip coach Mike Sherman of his general manager duties and is targeting the Seahawks' Ted Thompson as a replacement, a Green Bay team source told The Associated Press on Thursday.

The source, speaking on the condition of anonymity, confirmed published reports that Harlan is nursuing Thompson who is Seattle's VP of football operations and used to work for the Packers Thompson was scouting the

East-West Shrine game in the San Francisco Bay area and was unavailable for comment. The Milwaukee Journal Senti-

nel, Green Bay Press-Gazette and Wisconsin State Journal all reported Thursday that the Packers want to hire Thompson.

#### McCombs wants Fox's Buck off Vikings-Eagles telecast

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. - Minnesota Vikings owner Red Mc-Combs asked Fox Sports to remove play-by-play announcer Joe Buck from Sunday's playoff game at Philadelphia because of his sharp criticism of wide receiver Randy Moss, and was turned down by the network.

After catching a touchdown pass in last weekend's win at Green Bay, Moss celebrated in the end zone by pretending to pull down his pants and moon Packers fans. Buck immediately called it a 'disgusting act.'

A two-sentence news release isned by the team said McCombs felt Buck's comments "suggested a prejudice that surpassed objective reporting.

#### NFL injury report

NEW YORK — The National Football League injury report, as provided by the league:

redgive:
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NEW YORK JETS (1.1-6) A PITTSBURGH
NEW YORK JETS (1.1-6) A PITTSBURGH
DE JOHN Abraham (June), PGIGBBLE; GIE
DE JOHN Abraham (June), PGIGBBLE; GIE
DE JOHN JETS (1.1-6) A PITTSBURGH
DE JOHN JETS (1.1-6) A PITTSBURGH
HOUSE (1.1-6) A PITTSBURGH
HOUSE

Falcons: Have no injuries to report.

Falcons: Have no injuries to report.

Sunday

MINNESOTA VIKINGS (9-8) AT PHILA
DELPHIA EAGLES (13-3) — Vikings:

DOUBTFUL: S Corey Chavous (elbow); RB

Moe Williams (ankle), PROBABLE: WR

Kelly Campbell (shoulder); WR Randy

Moss (ankle): LB Mike Nathal (proa).

Hollist Thomas (elbow): El Nate Wayne Middle Middle

# Roethlisberger exudes calm before playoff debut

BY ALAN ROBINSON The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH - Ben Roethlisberger glances quickly from his left to his right, looking for a defender who might break at the last second and disrupt his pass. With no one in sight he throws a perfect line-drive into his receiver's chest.

Just another day on the job for perhaps the most scrutinized rookie quarterback in NFL history, only this wasn't practice or a game. It was the middle of the Steelers' locker room Wednesday, as Roethlisberger playfully tossed around a plastic football, using TV cameramen as blockers and Jeff Reed - ves. a kicker as his primary receiver. Awfully nervous before his

"I think I hide it pretty good,"

Roethlisberger said as he awaits Saturday's postseason debut against the Jets. "There's a little bit of pressure out there obviously because you lose, you go home On the other hand I don't want to go out there and have too much pressure and stress on me. because then you never know how I'm going to play."

No rookie QB has played better than Roethlisberger, whose 13-0 record as a starter is unprecedented. Previously, no rookie had won more than his first six starts. much less one playing on only the fourth team to go 15-1 since the NFL started playing 16-game seasons in 1978

Roethlisberger's remarkable



10:30 p.m. Saturday AFN-Atlantic, Pacific & Radio Game time is Central European

run has made him the Steelers most popular player since their four Super Bowl victories in six seasons from 1974-79. His No. 7 iersev is a best seller; his infrequent public appearances trigger mile-long traffic jams.

For all the poise, maturity and skill Roethlisberger has shown

the Steelers' 72-season history, they are asking him to do the seemingly impossible: Win the Super Bowl as a rookie.

After all, no rookie OB has taken his team to football's biggest game, much less won it. Since the NFL merger in 1970, only one rookie NFL quarterback, the Buccaneers' Shaun King in 1999, won his first playoff start; the other two rookies to win (Dieter Brock, Pat Haden) had experience in other pro leagues.

Yet anything other than Pittsburgh's first Super Bowl championship in 25 years will be an enormous letdown - not just for Big Ben, but for coach Bill Cowher, who has eight division titles in 13 seasons but no championship ring, and residents of this Steelers-mad town.

Roethlisberger struggled mightily against the Jets in a 17-6 victory on Dec. 12, throwing for only 24 yards in the first half before finishing nine of 19 for 144 yards. It didn't help that his top deep threat, Plaxico Burress, sat out with a sore hamstring, allowing the Jets to load the line of scrim mage and take away the run until the Steelers scored 14 noints in the fourth quarter.

But as poorly as he played two interceptions and a sea-son-low 33.6 passer rating - Roethlisberger won. No doubt the Jets will try to force him to do it again, with defensive end Shaun Ellis saying, "You have to stop the run. Everybody knows Pittsburgh loves to run the ball."

# **Indy poised** to pass a tough test

By DAVE GOLDBERG The Associated Press

or a team that's lost five straight times to its upcoming opponent, the Indianapolis Colts are getting a lot of respect.

The opponent in question, of course, is New England, which has won two of the past three



NFL titles. And the game in question is Sunday in Foxboro, where the Patriots heat the

Colts in last season's AFC championship game and again in this sea Nonetheless, the Patriots are fa-

vored by just 2½ points, less than the three points a team normally gets for being at home.

Next to Pittsburgh, the Colts are the NFL's hottest team and MVP Peyton Manning is the NFL's hottest quarterback

Indy has won nine of 10, the only loss being the final regular-season game in Denver in which it played backups. The Colts took care of that loss at home last week, dispatching the Broncos from the playoffs 49-24 in a game they led 35-3 at halftime

That season opener, a 27-24 victory by the Patriots, is part of the reason why this game is outside in the cold New England winter.

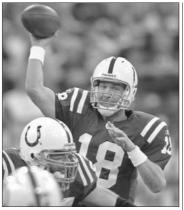
'When we lost that game up there, we felt it would probably cost us a chance to play a home game" said Colts coach Tony Dungy. "That's what we have now

That clearly should slow down Manning.

Of his record 49 touchdown passes, 32 were indoors - 26 at home and six more at Detroit's Ford Field. In last year's title game, he threw four interceptions and he had another in the opener - picked off in the end zone on Indy's opening drive by Tedy Bruschi

But he has one potential advantage here.

Ty Law, New England's best cornerback, has finally been de-



Peyton Manning (18) is eager to make amends for last year's four-interception performance at New England in the AFC championship game.

Tyrone Poole, the other starter on the sideline. No team overcomes injuries better than the Patriots - last year, this year, every year. But

COLTS, 27-24.

Minnesota (plus 9) at Philadelphia: A lot of Eagles' fans jumped off the bandwagon when Terrell Owens was hurt and more hung their heads when Andy Reid tanked the last two regular-season games, playing subs after his team had clinched home-field ad-

vantage in the NFC Yes, the Vikings can be dangerous - even with a sore ankle, Randy Moss caught two touchdown passes last week.

But give Reid the benefit of the doubt. Even without Owens, the Eagles have a healthy Brian Westbrook, whose absence from last year's playoffs deprived Philadel-phia of what was then its only game-breaking player. ...

New York Jets (plus 9) at Pittsburgh: The Jets are better than their reputation, which has been sullied somewhat by the New York media, which decided to ignore the fact that the 5-6 record to finish the regular season was due in large part to Chad Pennington's shoulder injury

Pennington looked fine last week in New York's overtime win in San Diego - certainly better than he did in a 17-6 loss in Pittsburgh on Dec. 12 when he was playing hurt.

But the Steelers are rested and couldn't even lose when they they won their 14th straight playing subs in Buffalo against a team that would have made the playoffs had it won

Probably closer than the spread but ... STEELERS, 24-18.

St. Louis (plus 7) at Atlanta: The Rams insist they're playing their best now and they seem to he - they heat the Jets at home in the regular-season finale and won in Seattle last week.

They also get the indoor fast track they like at the Georgia Dome, where they lost 34-17 in the second week of the season.

But they are just 3-6 on the road this season. Two of the wins were over the inconsistent Seahawks and the other was against San Francisco, easily the NFL's worst team this season

And whatever the fast track does for the Rams, it also does a lot for Michael Vick, who ran for 109 yards and was 14 of 19 for 179 ards in the first meeting. ... FAL-CONS, 33-24.

Last week: 2-2 (spread), 1-3 (straight up)

McNabb prefers playoff pressure

BY ROB MAADDI The Associated Press

PHII.ADELPHIA — Donovan McNabb peeked into the interview room as Brian Westbrook approached the podium, and shouted three questions.

"What are you going to do without T.O.? Are you going to get the ball more? What's the mood of the team?" McNabb said in a squeaky, high-pitched tone, drawing laughter from the crowd.

Tired of hearing those ques tions himself, the Philadelphia Eagles' five-time Pro Bowl quarterback interiected some humor into a mundane Wednesday news conference. McNabb brings the same lighthearted spirit into the locker room and the huddle.

Pressure? What pressure? McNabb certainly isn't feeling any as the heavily favored Eagles (13-3) prepare to play the Minnesota Vikings (9-8) in an NFC divisional playoff game on Sunday.

star receiver Terrell Owens sidelined by an ankle inju-



Fagles OR Donovan McNahh said Wednesday, "I love to step out there and everybody is standing on their feet with their mouth wide open to find out what I'm

rv. McNabb realizes the burden of carrying the offense falls on him. He welcomes the challenge

him. He welcomes the chancage.

"You guys said T.O. took the
pressure off of me. Now I guess I ive all the pressure again, Nabb said. "I love pressure. I love to step out there and everybody is standing on their feet with their mouth wide open to find out what I'm going to do next. ... Buckle your seat belts and enjoy the ride." McNabb is coming off the best

season of his six-year career. He set a team record with 3.875 yards passing, became the first NFL player to throw for more than 30 touchdowns (31) and less than 10 interceptions (eight), and his passer rating of 104.7 was secand in the NEC Often criticized for being inac-

curate, McNabb drastically im-proved his completion percent-- his 64.0 percent was almost six points higher than his career average - and broke an NFL record by completing 24 consecutive passes over two games.

None of the personal glory matters if the Eagles don't win the Super Bowl. After losing the past three NFC championship game nothing else is considered a success in a city that hasn't celebrated a winner since the 76ers won the NBA title in 1983.



"In this world that we live in. you're not great unless you win a Super Bowl," McNabb said. "It's sad that you have to be judged by that, but we just have to play our game and know what we're seeing and go out and execute.

With Owens joining McNabb and Westbrook this season, the offense nearly was unstoppable in the first 12 games. The Eagles won nine of the first dozen games by double-digit margins, including five wins by at least 21 points.

Owens' injury was a devastating blow for Philadelphia, which lost both of its games without the Pro Bowl wideout, mainly because many of the starters were rested with nothing on the line.

But the Eagles didn't have Owens, who has an outside chance of playing in the Super Bowl if Philly gets there, when they went to the past three conference title games. McNabb and Westbrook are playing their best, and the defense has been outstanding this season.

"We have more weapons than just T.O," McNabb said, referring to wideouts Todd Pinkston and Freddie Mitchell and tight ends Chad Lewis and L.J. Smith.

"I know you guys have questions about the receiving corps since T.O. is hurt. Our receiving corps is fine, we'll make plays and we'll win the game."

Westbrook, so valuable that coach Andy Reid sat him out the last two regular-season games, figures to draw most of the attention from Minnesota's defense.

"They still have to respect the other guys on this team," Westbrook said.

Throughout his career, Mc-Nabb has earned respect for his leadership skills and the way he has handled adversity, beginning with being booed loudly by Eagles fans when his name was announced as the No. 2 pick of the 1999 NFL Draft.

In 2002, McNabb threw four TD passes on a broken ankle against Arizona then sat out the last six regular-season games.

He overcame the worst start of his career last season, playing with a sprained right thumb that affected his grip, and an ankle injury limiting his mobility. He was booed by fans, and also dealt with the racially charged critique of then-ESPN commentator Limbaugh, who said McNabb was overrated because the media wants to see a black quarterback

"There are a lot of outside pressures and guys like Donovan are able to put that aside and concentrate on the thing that means the most and that is individual play and performance." Reid said.



# **Estes signs with Diamondbacks**

BY RONALD BLUM The Associated Press

Shawn Estes is the newest member of Arizona's revamped rotation, and All-Star catcher Paul Lo Duca plans to stick with the Florida Marlins for a while.

Estes finalized a \$2.5 million, one-year contract with the busy Diamondbacks, who also traded infielder Shea Hillenbrand to the Toronto Blue Jays on Wednesday.



Arizona's moves came one day after it sent Randy Johnson to the New York Yankees and acquired Shawn Green and Javier Vazquez in separate

Estes turned down a two-year offer for more money from the Washington Nationals. He and his wife, Heather, and their sons, 16-month-old Jackson and 3-month-old Cody, live in Paradise Valley, about a 20-minute drive to Bank One Ballpart.

"I was single for a long time in the big leagues, and playing with guys that had children I saw how hard it was for them to be away," Estes said.

The left-hander becomes the third new starting pitcher on a Diamondbacks roster that has been dramatically overhauled after the team lost 111 games last season. Arizona also signed free agent Russ Ortiz.

The 31-year-old Estes was 15-8 with a 5.84 ERA in a career-high 34 starts for Colorado last season

"I rededicated myself physically," he said.
"I knew I was going to have to prove myself again and kind of reinvent myself."

Hillenbrand, acquired from Boston in May

2003, hit a team-high .310 for the Diamondbacks last season with 15 home runs and 80 RBIs. A third baseman most of his career, he played first last season for Arizona.

Lo Duca agreed to an \$18 million, three-year contract with Florida, avoiding salary arbitration. The two-time All-Star was acquired in a trade with the Los Angeles Dodgers last summer.

"It was an easy decision," he said. "Going into this offseason, my mind was set on coming back. It was never an issue.

It was just a matter of getting the X's and O's basically done."

Three other players who were eligible for arbitration agreed to one-year deals: Seattle right-hander Gil Meche (\$2,535,000). Pitts-burgh right-hander Brian Meadows (\$1,125,000) and Boston infielder Ramon Vazquez ((\$70,000). Nimety-five players remain eligible to file for arbitration by Friday's deadline.

Oakland added a pitcher, agreeing to a \$1 million, one-year contract with Keiichi Yabu. The 36-year-old right-hander played 11 seasons with the Hanshin Tigers in Japan and went 6-9 with a 3.02 ERA in 19 games last season.

"He's had a lot of success in Japan," Athletics general manager Billy Beane said. "We found with a lot of the recent guys who came over, you can really translate their performance in Japan to the United States. He also had a strong interest in coming to Oakland. He's a four-pitch guy with good command."

Houston agreed to a minor league contract with right-hander Turk Wendell, and Tampa Bay agreed to a minor league deal with left-hander Mark Guthrie.

#### MLB wants Nationals owner by April

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Major League Baseball still is targeting April for finding an owner for the Washington Nationals, now that the new home of the former Montreal Expos has been determined.

"I would expect that we would start the diligence with the prospective buyers within a week to 10 days," baseball's chief operating officer Bob DuPuy said Wednesday during a break in the owners' meeting. "We've got materials assembled in New York, and we'll be inviting groups in, and we'll go from there."

Asked if six to eight prospective ownership groups were expected, DuPuy said, "a little higher than that, and my guess is it will sort itself out over time."

Ownership of the Washington, Oakland and Milwaukee franchises were to be discussed during the two-day session at a north Scottsdale resort.

Owners are scheduled to vote Thursday on the \$223 million sale of the Milwaukee Brewers from the family of commissioner Bud Selig to Mark Attanasio. Some met Wednesday with prospective Oakland Athletics buyer Lewis Wolff.

Baseball's other 29 teams purchased the Expos before the 2002 season, then began a search for a new home for the franchise

Washington finally was chosen, but that agreement almost fell through before public financing for a new 41,000-seat stadium was approved last month by a 7-6 vote by the District of Columbia Council. The team will play in revamped RFK Stadium while the new ballpark is constructed.

The Nationals open their season April 4 at Philadelphia and play their home opener 10 days later against Arizona.

# MLB: BALCO fallout helped push for plan

MLB. FROM BACK PAGE

what not, it forced us to take a look at revising it or making it a little tougher. It was not a question anymore if that agreement was going to be enough. It was a question to address some of the new issues that came to light and get our fans to believe we were doing everything we could to make the problem go away 100 percent."

Giambi reportedly told the grand juny he used steroids for about three years and that they had been provided by Bonds' rainer, Greg Anderson, who has been indicted in the BALCO case. BALCO-supplied substances he believed to be flaxseed oil and balm but which prosecutors believed were steroids, the Sal Francisco Chronicle reported. In Cotober, Sheffield fold Sports II provided by Anderson, None has been disciplined by baseballs.

Tony Clark said questions about steroid use had caused players to think about a tougher agreement.

"The integrity of our game was beginning to come under fire, and there are too many great players, past and present, that deserve to be celebrated for their ability to play this game at a very high level," the free-agent first basement and in an e-mail to the AP. "It a stricter drug policy brings that level of appreciation back, we felt that it was worth pursuing."

# Former Nets' player Williams playing for CBA team

The Associated Press

NAMPA, Idaho — Jayson Willbasketball again — and so anxious to avoid offending anyone that he was as generous with his handshakes, hugs and thank yous as he once was with his comical one-liners.

Hoping to return to the NBA, Williams began his comeback bid Wednesday night by scoring two points and grabbing four rebounds in limited action just hours after signing a contract with the Idaho Stampede of the Continental Basketball Association

Williams, who faces reckless manslaughter charges related to a 2002 shooting at his New Jersey mansion, has said he hopes to use the CBA as a springboard for his return to the NBA.

Williams, who turns 37 next month, quit professional basketball in 2000 because of knee problems.

"Interested NBA teams want assurances that I am fully recovered and can withstand the rigors of daily competition," Williams said in a statement Wednesday. "The very competitive CBA will provide me with this opportunity."

The 6-foot-10 forward did not start Wednesday's game against the Yakima Sun Kings, but was the first man off the bench in both halves of Idaho's 117-109 win, plaving more than nine minutes.

#### **Sports briefs**

He drew a polite cheer from the announced crowd of 2,367 when he first took the floor about midway through the first quarter.

"I felt great. I really appreciated it. I was a little rusty," Williams said after the game. "I'm glad we got a win. These guys look awesome."

Williams appeared to run without problems and was going out of his way to be gracious, at one point profusely thanking a towel girl. He exchanged handshakes and hugs with members of the Sun Kings at halfcourt after the game, and was the last to leave the autograph table.

Williams was acquitted in April of aggravated manslaughter in the Feb. 14, 2002, shooting death of a limousine driver, Costas "Gus" Christofi. He was convicted on four counts stemming from a failed bid to conceal the shoot-

His retrial on a charge of reckless manslaughter is due to begin

Williams, who called the shooting an accident, won't be sentenced on the four cover-up convictions until the remaining charge is settled. Possible sentences run from probation to about five years in prison. The reckless manslaughter charge

carries a possible 10-year sentence. Williams played nine seasons

for the New Jersey Nets and Philadelphia 76ers. He averaged 10 or more rebounds per game in his final four NBA seasons; his rebounding prowess earned him a trip to the 1998 All-Star game.

#### Skater Nikodoniov's mom killed on way to Nationals

PORTLAND, Ore. — The mother of Angela Nikodinov, a two-time bronze medalist in the U.S. Figure Skating Championships, was killed in a car accident Wednesday morning as the family traveled to the competition.

Delores Nikodinov, 48, of San Pedro, Calif., was pronounced dead at the scene. Angela Nikodinov and her father, Nick, were treated at Legacy Emanuel Hospital and were released. Nikodinov's coach, Igor Pashkevich, is in fair condition at the hospital and was to be kept overnight.

U.S. Figure Skating announced late Wednesday that Nikodinov had withdrawn from the competition. The women's short program is Thursday night.

According to Portland police,
According to Portland police,
Nikodinov and her family were in a shuttle from the airport a little
after 9 a.m. when the lime green
minivan collided with a Volkswagen Jetta as the van merged
onto Interstate 205. The shuttle
hit a cement barrier, police said,
and the right front tire blew out.

The van flipped onto its side and skidded along the pavement for a short distance before coming to a stop, said Sgt. Brian Schmautz, a spokesman for the Portland police. Delores Nikodinov was sitting next to a window that exploded, and Schmautz said she died of head trauma.

"It's our understanding it was more of a fluke, just simply because of the victim's position in the vehicle," Schmautz said. "Had the van not rolled or had she been in a slightly different place, the accident may not have killed her."

#### Baylor's Smith to coach U.S. baseball team

DURHAM, N.C. — Baylor coach Steve Smith was chosen baseball coach of the national team that will represent the United States this summer.

Smith, an assistant for the 1998 USA national team, will coach a team of college freshmen and sophomores scheduled to compete in Japan and Taiwan.

"Caach Smith is very highly regarded among his peers, and we're extremely excited to welcome him back as our head coate for the upcoming summer," USA Baseball general manager Eric Campbell said Thursday in a statement. "Steve is an outstanding teacher of the game."

The team is also scheduled to play two three-game series in Durham against yet to be determined international opponents. "I look forward to a great sum-

mer," Smith said. "Representing the United States in international connetition is a privilege."

competition is a privilege." Smith is 372-234-1 at Baylor. He has led the team to two NCAA Super Regional appearances and the 2000 Big 12 Conference title.

#### NASCAR changes qualifying

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla.— NASCAR revamped its qualifying procedures on Thursday, guaranteeing a spot in a Nextel Cup race to the top 35 drivers in the points standings.

The next seven positions in the starting field will be awarded to drivers with the fastest qualifying speeds who are not among the box 35 in points. The 43rd and final starting position will still be reserved for a current or past Nextel Cup champion. The system eliminates the old

procedure of teams accruing provisionals throughout the season to gain entry into the starting fields. If a driver didn't qualify in the top 35 on speed, he had to use one of his provisionals to get in.

When the provisionals ran out, the driver was sent home for the weekend no matter where he stood in the points standings.

The new qualifying system will not begin until the sixth race of the season. Through the first five races, the top 35 in the standings of the 2004 points system will be assured a starting spot.

# McGrady makes sure Mavericks feel his pain

BY JAIME ARON

DALLAS - Tracy McGrady's left big toe was bothering him so much that he took off his shoe during the second quarter and limped to the sideline figuring he was done for the night.

The Dallas Mavericks weren't that lucky

Halftime treatment and good news from an X-ray got McGrady back onto the court and he decided to push himself. The result was a tremendous third quarter that carried the Houston Rockets to a 124-114 victory Wednesday night that ended the Mavs' six-game winning streak

"When I went to the bench, I was going to shut it down," McGrady said. "But at

halftime, we put ice on it and more padding in my shoe. It wore off a little bit, but I was still in pain

Houston outscored Dallas 37-24 in the third, with McGrady putting up 13 points and eight assists. He added 10 points in the fourth, finishing with 30 points and 11 assists. The Rockets scored their most points of the season for the second straight game while beating the Mavericks for just the second time in 11 tries

"I was in one of those zones," said McGrady, who was 6-for-8 on three-pointers, making all three he tried in the third. "When I saw daylight, I was confident I

was going to knock the shot down." The Mavericks had won their past six games by at least 14 points, so this was their first tight game since before Christmas — and they didn't have enough offense to keep up. That's right, a team that was averaging 114.3 points in its past seven games couldn't find a consistent scorer at least not when it mattered most

Dirk Nowitzki led the Mavericks with 28 noints but had an 18-minute scoreless drought over the middle two periods. Michael Finley, coming off a season-best 33 points, missed nine of his first 10 shots. He finished with 14 thanks to three baskets long after the outcome was settled

The Rockets took advantage with an 11-2 run early in the third quarter to go ahead for good, then closed the period up nine. They shot 70 percent in the period, down from 72 in the first, and finished at an impressive 61 percent.

out with an upper respiratory infection, and swingman Marquis Daniels has been out with an ankle injury. Although Darrell Armstrong went from hardly playing the past few weeks to starting, and other changes in the rotation, coach Don Nelson expected a better performance — especially going into a 15-day stretch of nine games against mostly quality foes, starting Friday night in San Antonio.

"I thought our defense let us down a little bit, but I'm not sure that it mattered that much," Nelson said. "They were making every shot. They had a real good rhythm and flow to their game and we didn't."

Houston is suddenly starting to put up the numbers it expected. The Rockets are averaging 104.9 in the past 13 games after putting up just 86.9 in their first 22.



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# Suns run out of gas, lose to rebounding Jazz

The Phoenix Suns were on the losing end of a game for just the fifth time this sea-

After falling behind by 14 points early, the Utah Jazz rallied for their second straight home win over one of the ton teams in the Western Conference with a 115-108 victory over Phoenix on Wednesday night.

The loss was the Suns' first since Dec. 28 at San Antonio, ending their run of seven consecutive victories and dropping their NBA-best record to 31-5.

"I don't think we had the same energy Suns forward Shawn Marion said "We came out of the gates on fire tonight and I think we just relaxed a little bit. And as soon as we relaxed, they became the aggressors and they started getting all the calls."

Utah's bench and rebounding wore down the Suns, who beat Miami 122-107 the previous night. Utah's reserves outscored the Suns' 67-6, and the Jazz won the rebounding battle 55-35.

Mehmet Okur, whose last-second offensive rebound and putback gave Utah a 97-96 win over San Antonio on Monday night, finished with 21 points and 17 rebounds — 10 on the offensive glass.

After losing nine straight, the Jazz have won two in a row over teams with the top two records in the West

"Those are signs of what we can do and those are signs of the team that we have if we do the right thing," said Raja Bell, who scored 19 points off the bench after missNRA

ing five games with inflammation in his right knee.

Keith McLeod finished with 10 points and 11 assists and Matt Harnring

had 16 points and eight rebounds for Utah Phoenix was able to run at will early, but the Jazz took control in the second quarter and held off everything the Suns had down the stretch

Amare Stoudemire's two free throws with 3:25 left cut the margin to 110-100, but Utah came right back with a three-pointer by the 7-foot Okur.

"We needed something like this," said Lopez, who had 14 points and four assists after coming off the bench. "We need more

wins like these. Raptors 104. Celtics 93: Morris Peterson made seven three-pointers and scored a career-high 37 points for the Raptors.

Chris Bosh added a career-high 26 points and 10 rebounds for Toronto, 6-6 since trading Vince Carter to New Jersey

on Dec 17 Paul Pierce had 23 points for the Celtics, who have lost seven straight road games.

Wizards 104, Trail Blazers 100: At Washington, Gilbert Arenas made a floating runner with 24 seconds left, then stole an inbounds pass and converted it into a breakaway dunk.

The lead changed hands four times in the final 70 seconds, with the Trail Blazers nearly pulling off the win after coming back from a 13-point fourth-quarter defi cit. Arenas' floater put the Wizards ahead

for good, and his dunk made the score 101-98

Pistons 90, Hornets 76: At Auburn Hills, Mich., Ben Wallace had a season-high 19 rebounds and added 11 points to help Detroit snap New Orleans two-game winning streak.

Chauncev Billups scored 25 points for Detroit, and Richard Hamilton had 20 points and a season-high 10 assists.

Magic 87, Timberwolves 80: Hedo Turkoglu scored 26 points and Grant Hill added 20 to help Orlando snap a seven-game road losing streak

Kevin Garnett matched his career high with 25 rebounds and had 19 points for Minnesota. The Timberwolves have lost three straight and 11 of 15.

Bulls 110. 76ers 78: At Chicago, Ben Gordon matched a career high with 31 points, and Eddy Curry added 24 in the surging Bulls' fifth straight victory.

With two five-game winning streaks in the past month, the Bulls have won 11 of their past 14 to move within three games of .500 after losing their first nine games.

Spurs 94, Bucks 79: Tim Duncan scored 21 points, and Tony Parker had 20 to lead the Spurs to their fourth victory in five games. Michael Redd led visiting Milwankee with 24 points.

Nuggets 95. Lakers 83: At Denver, Carmelo Anthony had his best shooting night in weeks, scoring 17 points on 7-for-14 shooting to help the Nuggets snap a five-game losing streak.



Jazz guard Keith McLeod (25) slips under the arm of Suns forward Shawn Marion (31) during the fourth quarter.

Clippers 103, SuperSonics 92: At Los Angeles, Corey Maggette had 31 points and 10 rebounds and Darrick Martin made three clutch outside shots in the final 2:21

Heat 98. Warriors 91: At Oakland, Shaquille O'Neal had 26 points and 12 rebounds, and Miami avoided its first three-game losing streak of the season.

#### NBA scoreboard

New York Boston Philadelphia Toronto

#### **Eastern Conference** Atlantic Division

Southeast Division						
Miami	28	10	.737	-		
Washington	20	13	.606	51/2		
Orlando	19	15		7		
Charlotte	8	23	.258	161/2		
Atlanta	6		.188	19		
Central Division						
Cleveland		12	.636	-		
Detroit	20	14	.588	11/2		
Indiana	17	16	.515	4		
Chicago	15	18	.455	6		
Milwaukee	12	21	.364	9		
Western Conference						
western c	JIIIe	ici	ICC			
Southwest			ice			
Southwest	Divis	ion	Pct	GB		
Southwest San Antonio	Divis W 29	ion L 8	Pct .784	-		
Southwest San Antonio Dallas	Divis W 29 22	ion L 8	Pct .784 .667	5		
Southwest San Antonio Dallas Houston	Divis W 29 22 18	ion L 8 11	Pct .784 .667	5 10		
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San Antonio Dallas Houston Memphis New Orleans Seattle Minnesota	Divis W 29 22 18 18 4 Divis 25	8 11 17 18 30 ion 9	Pct .784 .667 .514 .500 .118	5 10 10½ 23½ –		
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A. Clippers
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Toronto 104, Boston 93, Boston 93, Wednesday's Games
Toronto 104, Boston 93, B

rioenix at Indiana
Toronto at Philadelphia
Memphis at Charlotte
Atlanta at Boston
Dallas at San Antonio
Orlando at Detroit
Portland at New Orleans
Washington at Milwauke
Miami at L.A. Clippers
Minnesota at Denver Miami at L.A. Clippers
Minnesota at Denver
Golden State at Seattle
Saturday's games
New York at Chicago
Phoenix at Washington
Charlotte at Atlanta Philadelphia at Detroit Milwaukee at Memphis Orlando at Indiana Portland at Minnesota San Antonio at Houston New Jersey at Dallas Cleveland at Utah L.A. Clippers at Sacram L.A. Lakers at Golden St

#### Wednesday Raptors 104, Celtics 93

BOSTON — Pierce 8-15 6-7 23, LaFrentz 3-8 2-2 8, Blount 4-8 4-4 12, Welsch 1-4 3-5 5, Pay-ton 2-9 0-0 4, Jefferson 0-6 2-4 2, Davis 9-17 4-5 22, Banks 2-9 1-2 5, Allen 1-2 0-02, Perkins 2-2 0-0 4, McCarty 2-5 0-0 6, Totals 34-85 22-29

3 **TORONTO** — E. Williams 2-3 0-0 4, Bosh 6-13 4-18 26, Araujo 1-4 0-0 2, Peterson 12-22 6-6 7, Alston 3-10 1-2 10, Marshall 1-12-4, Rose 3-2-4, Palacio 0-1 1-2 1, Murray 3-5 0-0 8, a. Williams 3-5 0-0 7, Woods 0-0 1-2 1. Totals 2-7 3 26-34 10-7

32-73 (25-34 104. Boston Thempoly (15-34 104. Boston Themp-loint Goals—Boston 2-16 (McCarty - 23, Pierce 1-5, Banks 0-1, Lafrent-0-1, Jefferson 0-1, Payton 0-1, Welsch 0-2, Davis 0-2, Toronto 14-29 (Delevas 0-1-4, Askson 3-5, Marzonto 14-29 (Delevas 0-1-4, Askson 3-5, Marzonto 14-29 (Delevas 0-1-4, Delevas 0-1-4, Deleva

#### Wizards 104, Trail Blazers 100

PORTIAND - Dateson 6-15: 4-17, Randol-PORTIAND - Subtreson 6-15: 4-17, Randol-6-13-2-2-19, Stoudanire 10-27: 6-13, Outlaw 23-04-4, Rauffl - 23-2-2, Tellar 6-3-2-2, 23-04-4, Rauffl - 23-2-2, Tellar 6-3-2-2, 23-04-4, Rauffl - 23-2-2, Tellar 6-3-2-2, 1-2-0-3. Totals 3-7-81. T-23-100. WASHINGTON - Jamison 4-7-3-5. 11. ep-10-20-5-7-26, Arenas 11-16-0-3-26, Dixon 4-6-10-20-5-7-26, Arenas 11-16-0-3-26, Dixon 4-6-10-20-5-7-26, Arenas 11-16-0-3-26, Dixon 4-6-Portland - Totals 4-2-6-2-21, ETho-Portland - Totals 4-2-6-2-21, ETho-Portland - Totals 4-2-6-2-3, ETho-Portland - Totals 4-2-6-2

mas 2-6 -0-34. Totals 42-9-514-39 (104.
Portland

#### Spurs 94, Bucks 79

MILWAUKEE — Mason 1-8 0-0 2, Smith 2-4 3-47, Gadzuric 4-6 0-1 8, M.Williams 4-9 0-0 9, Redd 9-23 6-7 24, Fizer 6-12 0-0 12, Pachulia 2-3 5-6 9, Van Horn 0-2 0-0 0, James 3-8 1-2 8. Totals 31-75 15-20 79.

SAN ANTONIO — Duncan 9-19 3-3 21, Bowen 2-7 0-0 5, Nesterovic 1-4 0-0 2, Parker 8-18 3-4 20, Ginobili 6-13 2-2 15, Barry 4-5 0-0 11, Horry 2-4 0-0 4, Udrih 3-5 2-2 8, Massen-burg 3-5 0-0 6, Brown 0-4 0-0 0, Wilks 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 39-85 10-11 94.

Milwaukee San Antonio San Antonio 22 27 25 20–94
Three-Point Goals—Milwaukee 2-7 (M.Williams 1-2, James 1-3, Redd 0-1, Van Horn 0-1),
San Antonio 6-17 (Barry 3-4, Parker 1-1, Gino-bill 1-4, Bowen 1-6, Brown 0-2), Fouled out—None Rebounds—Milwaukee 47 (Fizer 11),
San Antonio 45 (Duncan 9), Assists—Milwaukee 11 (Redd, James, M.Williams 3), San Antonio 47, Goder on 19, Assists—Milwaukee 15, San Antonio 17, A=16,754 (8,500).

#### Pistons 90. Hornets 76

NEW ORLEAMS — Nallon 8-15 0-0 16, Rogers 2-11 0-0 4, Pitrovin 6-11 1-2 13, Smith 1-5 3-4 6, Pitrovin 6-11 1-2 13, Smith 1-5 3-4 6, Pitrovin 6-10 1-2 13, Pitrovin 6-10 0-10 1-2 1

Debroit 22 2 1 26 18-99
Three-Point Goals-New Orleans 3-13
(Nachbar 1-2, Davis 1-3, Dickau 1-3, Lynch 0-1, Rogers 0-2, Smith 0-2), Debroit 5-19 (Bill-lups 3-7, Prince 2-3, Rivallace 0-2, Huntter 0-2), Goldwire 0-2, Huntter 0-1, Touled out-0-1, Goldwire 0-2, Huntter 0-1, Touled out-0-1, Huntter 0-1, Found 0-1, Found 0-1, Touled 0

#### Magic 87, Timberwolves 80

ORLANDO — Hill 10-16 0-0 20, Howard 2-7 2-3 6, Cato 3-6 0-0 6, Turkoglu 8-16 8-8 26, Francis 7-24 2-2 17, Battle 0-0 0-0, Augmon 4-4-6 4, Kasun 0-0 0-0, Garrity 0-3 0-0 0, Nel-son 3-5 2-5 8, Stevenson 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 33-81 18-24 87.

Rockets 124, Mavericks 114 HOUSTON - McGrady 12-19 0-0 30 Ju.Howard 14-19 1-1 29, Yao 5-8 10-13 20, Sura 4-8 2-2 12, Wesley 8-16 1-2 21, Mutombo 2-3 0-0.4, Bowen 0-1.2-2, Taylor 1-1.0-0.2, Barry 1-2-2-2, Barret 10-0-0.0, Gaines 0-0-0.0. To tals 47-7 18-2-2 124, 4-14 3-3 14, Nowitzki 10-18-3-4.2, Dampier 2-4-2-5, Armstrong 1-2 0-3, Terry 8-15-4-21, Stackhouse 7-15-10-11 26, Gradley 6-13-0-01, Harris 2-3-0-0, Hend-erson 0-0-0-0, Booth 0-0-0-0. Totals 40-84 2-2-84 114.

22-24 11.4

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#### Bulls 110, 76ers 78

PHILADE PHIA — I guodala 2-3 2-2 6, Tho-mas 2-7 0-0 4, Jackson 8-17 1-2 17, Iverson 8-21 5-6 21, Salmons 1-7 0-0 3, Korver 3-9 1-9, Skinner 0-0 0-0 0, Williamson 5-9 4-5 1, McKle 1-3 0-0 2, Ollie 1-3 0-0 2, Green 0-3 0-0

Mégica 1,8 0.7, Oligic 1,3 0.9, 2 Green 0.3 0.0
CHICAGO - Devoy 6.3 1.118, ADAIN 6.3 0.0
2, Curry 9.31 6.7 24, Hinrich 6.3 0.0
2, Curry 9.31 6.7 24, Hinrich 6.3 0.0
3, Chicago - Chicago

Nuggets 95, Lakers 83
LALAKUS - Cubiller 43 10-31 18, Odom
412-54 13, Milm 61-30-31 28, Figure 54, 48-3
412-54 13, Milm 61-30-31 28, Figure 54, 48-3
60 1, Jones 40-50, Figure 74, 52-52, Walson
60 1, Jones 40-50, Figure 74, Figure 54, Figure 54, 52-52
60 1, Jones 40-50, Figure 74, Figur

#### Jazz 115. Suns 108

PRODRIK - Fisher stone 1.7 & 24. Marion F-10 & 20. Stoudenire 5-12 9-11 19, Nash 6-11 6-2 0, Stoudenire 5-12 9-11 19, Nash 7-20 6-0, Hutter 5-20 6-14 (Justine 90 0-0) 6-18 (Jus

48-971-4.15 11.5

Thoenix 22 20 33 26-108

Utah Point Coals—Proc 22 20 34 26-118

Utah Point Coals—Proc 23 20 34 26-118

Ost 1-2, Barlon 2-6, Nash 2-6, Uniform 0-1, Jacobsen 0-2), Utah 5-14 (Lopez 2-3, Bell 1-2, Jacobsen 0-2), Utah 5-14 (Lopez 2-3, Bell 1-2), Utah 5-14 (Lopez 2-3, Bell 1-

#### Clippers 103, Sonics 92

SEATTLE — Lewis 1-8 1-2 4, Evans 4-6 3-5 11, James 1-2 0-0 2, Allen 7-20 7-8 22, Ridnour 6-12 2-2 14, Radmanovic 3-13 0-0 8, Fortson 4-65-513, Daniels 4-10 3-5 12, Collison 2-2 0-0 4, Murray 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 33-80 21-27 92. LA. CLIPPER — Simmons 6-13 6-6 18, LA. CLIPPERS — Simmons 6-13 6-6 18, Brand 7-145-7 19, Kaman 2-9 0-0 4, Maggette 11-19 7-7 31, Brunson 0-3 0-0 0, Moore 1-2 0-0 2, Rebraca 2-4 2-2 6, Kittles 5-8 1-3 11, Martin 4-5 1-2 10, Ross 1-2 0-0 2. Totals 39-79 22-27

103.

\*\*Settlingers\*\*

\*\*Settlingers\*\*

\*\*Three-Point Goals-Seattle 5-25 (Radangovic 27, Lewis 1-5, Daniels 1-5, Alen 1-6,

\*\*Martin 1-1, Brunson 6-1, Kittles 6-1), Foulder 1-1, Brunson 6-1, Kittles 6-1, Kittles 6-1, Foundation 1-1, Kittles 6-1, Kittles 6-1,

#### Heat 98. Warriors 91

MIAMI — Haslem 11-16 0-0 22, Anderson 5 2-2 8, O'Neal 9-15 8-20 26, E.Jones 5-11 2-2

JMAN on Haslem 11-56 Po 22, Andress vol. 11, 20 Po 22, Andress vol. 11, 20 Po 24, 20 Po 24, 20 Po 25, 20 Po 25, 20 Po 26, 20 P coach Van Gundy, Golden State Defensive Three Second, Robinson 2. Ejected—Robin-son, A—18,596 (19,596).



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# **SPORTS**



# **MLB** cracks down on steroids

### Plan includes suspensions for first offenses

From wire report

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Saying it wanted to restore confidence in the game, baseball rolled out a tougher steroid-testing program Thursday that includes penalties for first-time offenders and random, year-round checks.

"I've been saying for some time my goal for this industry is zero tolerance toward steroids," baseball commissioner Bud Selig said.

A first positive test would result in a suspension of up to 10 days, a second positive



Major League Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig announced Thursday that baseball players and owners have reached an agreement on a tougher steroid testing program.

test a 30-day ban, a third positive a 60-day penalty, and a fourth positive test a one-year ban.

Under the previous agreement, a first

positive test resulted only in treatment, and a second positive test was subject to a 15-day suspension. Only with a fifth positive test was a player subject to a one-year ban under the old plan.

Since the old agreement was reached in 2002, the sport has come under increased scrutiny about steroids. Barry Bonds, Jason Giambi and Gary Sheffield testified before a federal grand jury investigating a California lab, and President Bush brought up the steroids issue in a State of the Union address.

"We're acting today to help restore the confidence of our fans," Selig said.

In addition to the one mandatory test of each player each season, players will randomly be selected for additional tests, with no maximum. In addition, players will randomly be selected for testing during the off-

season.

Human Growth Hormone was added to the list of banned substances; amphet-

In light of growing concerns about steroids because of the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative scandal, and fearing an erosion of the public's trust in the game, Selig had requested a program more closely re-

sembling that held in the minor leagues.
About the time members of Congress threatened to take action unless baseball reached an agreement on its own — backing Selig in his forceful anti-steroid statements — and shortly after leaked federal grand jury testimony linked Barry Bonds, and the statements in the statement of the stat

"Everybody believed that the program we had in place was having an effect and definitely it was doing what it was designed to do," senior union member Tom Glavine told the Associated Press, "but having said that, with the stuff that was going on and

SEE MLB ON PAGE 32

# **Tar Heels sting Georgia Tech**



North Carolina's C.J. Hooker, front, and Georgia Tech's Anthony Morrow battle Wednesday at the Dean Smith Center in Chapel Hill, N.C. No. 3 North Carolina defeated No. 8 Georgia Tech 91-69. See story on Page 29.



Colts getting lots of respect against nemesis New England Page 30



Hip injury could keep Agassi out of Australian Open

Page 27

